Frenchwoman kidnapped; Canadian missing

STORY BELOW, COL. 5

Stripping for medicine

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NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nevada—A renowned cardiovascular surgeon has bought an all-nude club and cabaret, saying the cash from his new venture will help pay for medical research.

Dr. Simon Stertzer of Stanford University is the new owner of the

STRIPPING/ A16

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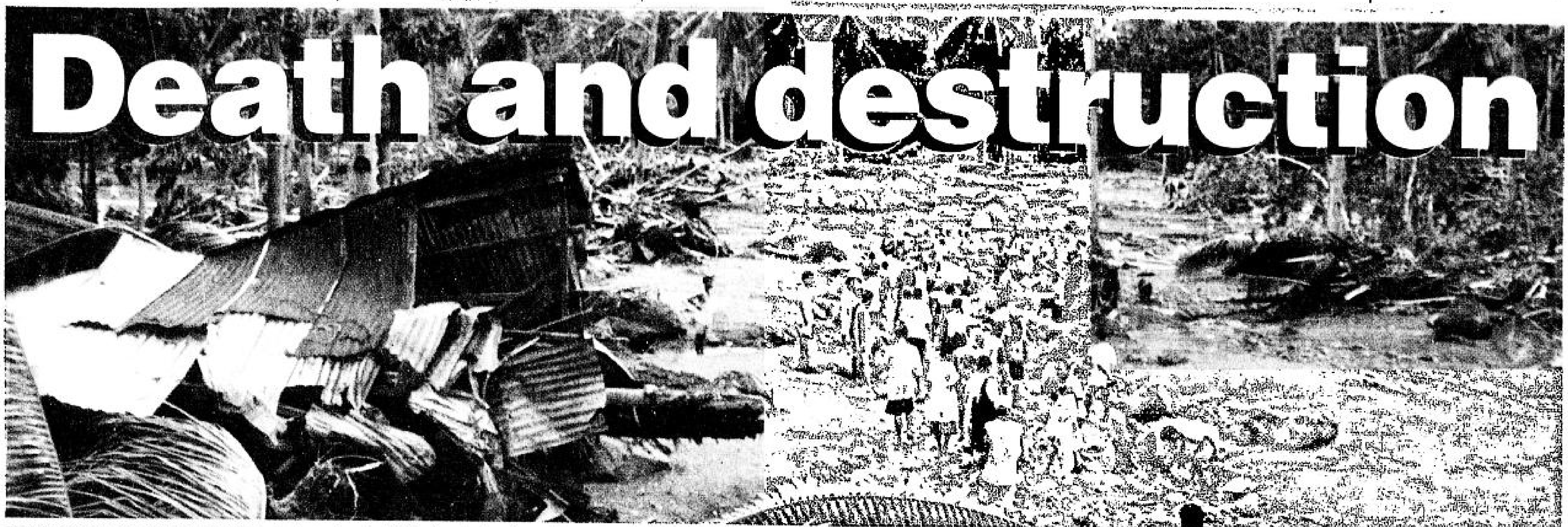
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10 2001 ★★ 66 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 335 P15

WITH THIS ISSUE
All about *élan*
- Adieu Élan, Hola España!
- Nurturing Creativity
- Beauty Diplomacy

Death and destruction



THE CALM after the storm in Mahinog, the town hardest hit in Camiguin where 80 people died and where the embalming liquid had run out.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Nanang's toll rises to 122 killed, 240 missing; rescue work continues

BY PDI MINDANAO, VISAYAS AND SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAUS

MAMBAJAO, Camiguin—More bodies were dug up from mud-covered villages of this island province yesterday as social workers started stress debriefing sessions for victims of the flash floods and whirlwind that struck Barangay Hubangon in Mahinog town.

As of yesterday, 91 of the 122 fatalities from typhoon Nanang were from this province. Some 240 people are still missing.

In the Visayas, the death toll rose to 38.

Damage to infrastructure in Camiguin alone was placed at P168.2 million. Damage to agriculture was P28.4 million, mostly crops, according to Camiguin Gov. Pedro Romualdo.

In other provinces, damage to property, crops and infrastructure was initially placed at P212 million—P106 million in Aklan; P46.7 million in Negros Occidental; P6.7 million in Bohol; P35 million in Cebu; and P10 million in Southern Leyte.

The stench of dead people and animals now fill the once-fresh and unpolluted air of Mahinog, where 80 of the fatalities came from.

But it is the same stench that is helping rescue workers locate the bodies.

DEATH/ A16

MASS grave dug up by a backhoe to bury the victims mostly killed by huge boulders and uprooted trees or washed away and drowned by rampaging floodwaters.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Client disowns lawyer's bribery rap vs Desierto

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

IN AN ironic twist, the supposed principal accuser of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, businessman Luke Roxas, yesterday became his defender after the latter disowned his former lawyer, Ernesto Francisco.

Roxas said Francisco's allegations in the impeachment complaint against Desierto were all false.

Francisco, a former associate lawyer of the Accra law office, has charged Desierto with bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust for allegedly receiving a bribe in exchange for holding in abeyance an investigation of Roxas' bank in 1997.

"The Ombudsman has been accused of accepting a bribe purportedly coming from me. I

CLIENT/ A5

Chinese tipsters, fly-by-night gangs blamed for kidnaps

BY NANCY C. CARVAJAL

(Third of four parts)

KIDNAPPING 2001
An I-TEAM Report

THE CHINESE-FILIPINO community has borne the brunt of the kidnap-for-ransom problem, and the country's highest-ranking police officials believe they know part of the reason why. Many kidnappers rely on help from Chinese-Filipinos themselves.

Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza said "tipsters" from within the Chinese-Filipino community were responsible for many successful kidnappings. They provide kidnap groups with information about potential victims, he said.

"They (the members of the community) should cleanse their own ranks," Mendoza told the INQUIRER. "Without the tipsters, there would be no kidnapping," he added.

These Chinese-Filipino tipsters know who in the community "pay fast, who have money," Mendoza said. He classified the kidnapping prospects into four types: "*kaibigan, kamag-anak, kanegosyo, kakilala* (friend, relative, business partner, acquaintance)."

But a furious Teresita Ang-See, head of the kidnap watchdog group Kaisa and a member of the National Anti-Crime Commission, took issue with Mendoza's statements.

"There were at least two or three

CHINESE/ A16

French kidnapped; Canadian missing

BY MARTIN MARFIL, NELSON FLORES AND ALLAN NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE WIFE of a French diplomat and her driver were kidnapped on Thursday but were released unharmed three hours later because her abductors claimed they had mistaken her for someone else.

But the Armalite-wielding kidnappers wearing military fatigues commandeered the victim's van, a Toyota Grandia.

Philippine National Police Director Gen. Leandro Mendoza told the INQUIRER that the Frenchwoman was waiting for her driver after she had brought her child to the Eurocampus French School at 75 Swaziland St., Better Living Subdivision in Parañaque. Four men forced her to board their vehicle, according to Mendoza.

He also said that the abductors just drove around with the Frenchwoman and her driver asking about money she withdrew from a bank.

In Zamboanga del Sur, a Canadian has reportedly been kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf extremists, Camp Aguinaldo officials said.

FRENCH/ A16

Rebel and actress: Unlikely friendship

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

THE ACTRESS and the one-time revolutionary leader only met twice. But it made Luis Taruc a "deep admirer" for life of Nida Blanca.

Taruc's friendship with the actress dated back to his revolutionary days, when then President Elpidio Quirino was trying to persuade the Huks to lay down their arms.

Along with the movie industry's biggest stars like Delia Razon, Rita Rivera and Gregorio Fernandez, Blanca joined Quirino sometime in 1948 when the latter met with Huk cadres led by Taruc in a remote barangay off Baliuag, Bulacan.

"It was the first time I met her," Taruc said. "And I instantly became her biggest fan."

Taruc recalled with fondness the humility that he said Blanca displayed during their first encounter.

"She had no qualms about min-

REBEL/ A5

Nida's pal sought for questioning

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND PHILIP C. TUBEZA

BOTH the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday said no one would be discounted as a suspect in the brutal killing of Nida Blanca until a motive had been established.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, director of the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and head of Task Force Marsha, said a close friend of the actress who had driven for her on several occasions would be invited for questioning.

Gualberto identified the friend as one Candelaria Ortis Tantoco, but said she was not a suspect and would only be asked to share information that could help investigators crack the case.

An NBI source said even Blanca's husband, American citizen Rod Lauren Strunk, was not being excluded as a possible suspect.

"At this point, we cannot discount anybody," the source said when asked if the NBI was also investigating Strunk.

He said the bureau was pursuing several leads but noted that the killing was most probably planned in advance. "There are indicators that Nida's death was not spontaneous," he said.

Earlier, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco was overheard saying that it was difficult to solve a "planned crime."

At her weekly press conference, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she had ordered PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza to meet the heads of all security agencies and institute "reforms."

She said Blanca's death should serve as a "lesson" to private security guards.

"Her death should start a review of the safety and security system in our buildings, like in the Atlanta Center building where her body was found," the President said in Filipino. "We should assess the quality of the services of private security firms."

The body of the 65-year-old actress was found Wednesday morning inside her car at the 6th-floor parking lot of the Atlanta Center in Greenhills, San Juan.

NIDA/ A5

SANA MAKATULONG SILA SA PROBLEMA

Second FRONT PAGE

GMA waits for Blair report

'They're really, really very impressed with our commanders'

BLAIR: US assessment of Basilan operation

By Dona Pazzibugan

ADMIRAL Dennis Blair, Commander in chief of the United States-Pacific Command (Cincpac), will be giving President Macapagal-Arroyo the US's assessment of the ongoing military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

Blair is also expected to put forward the US's own proposals on how it can assist the military's anti-terrorist campaign, particularly with equipment.

Ms Macapagal will meet with Blair on Nov. 13, the eve of her nine-day official visit to the US, which starts on Nov. 14 and ends on Nov. 22.

"He's the one who wants to visit me, so I'll listen to his report on (the findings of) his men who went to Basilan. I'll listen to their analysis," Ms Macapagal said at a press conference yesterday.

The US has sent a team of military counter-terrorist experts to find out how the it can help the Philippine military in the fight against terrorism.

The team of 26 anti-terrorism experts, which arrived on Oct. 21, had gone on to Basilan where the military has been battling Abu Sayyaf bandits holding 10 hostages, including a US missionary couple.

But even before meeting Blair, Ms Macapagal said she already had an idea of what the visiting US experts think of the military campaign in Basilan.

" They're really, really very impressed with our commanders there," she said.

She said the US officers were also much impressed by Filipino helicopter pilots who are capable of landing a plane vertically on top of a mountain in the Basilan jungles.

"But I think they're not impressed with our equipment," she said.

Criticized for its all-out support for the US-led international war against terrorism, the Macapagal administration has been at pains to downplay the return of US military presence here a decade after their expulsion.

Various Malacañang and military officials have characterized the US team of experts as not advisers nor fighters nor even consultants but evaluators here to find out "how they can assist us."

But even National Security Adviser Roilo Golez has said the presence of the US experts could translate into "some hardware items."

In late October, US Embassy officials announced that the US would be sending a C-130 military airplane, five VH-1 helicopters, guns and other military equipment before the end of the month.

It was also revealed that since about July, the US had been conducting a special training program in the Baguio area to help the military cope with hostage situations.

Golez himself said that a special Filipino commando team, the Light Reaction Company, that the US had trained in anti-terrorism was "very well trained and among the best in the world."

The President was originally scheduled to meet Blair in Cagayan de Oro City on Tuesday, upon arrival from a state visit to Indonesia from Nov. 12 to 13.

She has decided she would fly straight to Manila, however, saying she had been advised she would be taking an "unnecessary security risk" if she insisted on making the landing at the Cagayan de Oro airport.

She said the airport was not safe for landing beyond 4 p.m.

6 Abus, 1 soldier killed in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Six Abu Sayyaf Muslim rebels and one soldier were killed on Friday in fresh fighting as government troops pressed their pursuit of the kidnapping band holding two Americans and eight Filipinos, the military said.

Marines, backed by two MG-520 helicopter gunships, attacked Abu Sayyaf forces in the tiny islet of Saluping near the Abu Sayyaf stronghold of Sumisip town in Basilan island, killing six guerrillas, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu said.

One marine was also killed and another marine was wounded, Cimatu said.

Military operations against the Abu Sayyaf had been delayed earlier this week by heavy rains triggered by tropical storm "Nanang," which battered the southern and central islands of the Philippines.

"The weather somehow halted our troopers but we have to resume operations and our forces are slowly moving in. This is the result," Cimatu said.

Some 7,000 soldiers have been pursuing the main Abu Sayyaf group holding the American and Filipino hostages in the jungles of Basilan island.

Advancing military forces have prompted some Abu Sayyaf fighters to break off from the main group and take refuge in the smaller islands around Basilan.

Cimatu said Navy ships were conducting patrols to prevent more Abu Sayyaf members from getting off Basilan.

American missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham and the eight Filipinos are the remnants of the latest Abu Sayyaf kidnapping spree launched in May.

One American hostage, Guillermo Sobero, and over a dozen Filipino captives were earlier killed by the kidnappers who have links to Osama bin Laden, the main suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

The Abu Sayyaf, who claim to be Islamic independence fighters, are notorious for kidnapping Christians and foreigners in the southern Philippines and then ransoming them off for huge amounts of money. *AFP*

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US troopship arriving today

A US amphibious support vessel with 307 sailors and 456 Marines is scheduled to arrive today in the Philippines for a five-day port call, officials said Friday.

The visit of the USS Germantown "is a routine port call and has nothing to do with the ongoing military action in Afghanistan," said a statement of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The department said the 15,988-ton vessel, to arrive at noon today at the port of Subic, was last in the Philippines in June to participate in training with the Philippine Navy.

The statement said the USS Germantown will arrive from the Pacific island of Palau but did not say where the vessel will go after leaving the Philippines on Wednesday.

Last week, six US F-18 jet fighters and five US military transport planes stopped in the Philippines to refuel while en route from Japan to an undisclosed location to participate in US led military action against Afghanistan.

Also last month, about 25 US military advisers spent two weeks in the Philippines to explore how the United States can help the country fight the extremist Abu Sayyaf group.

The United States says the group has ties to Osama bin Laden, the chief suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. *AP*

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You're safe, Ople tells OFWs in Middle East

SEN. Blas Ople assured overseas Filipino workers based in the Middle East of their safety, saying the Philippine government was ready to handle any massive evacuation should the Afghanistan war worsen.

Ople gave the assurance after a Mass held in Doha, Qatar, where he is leading a Philippine contingent to the 4th World Trade Organization ministerial conference which opened yesterday.

"There is a fair prospect that the Afghan war is containable and that, at this time, the overseas workers and their families need not worry about being abruptly sent home." Ople said in a statement.

Ople told the OFWs that before his departure, Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr., Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Social Welfare and Development Secretary Dinky Soliman had already briefed the Senate on the contingency plans for OFWs in the Middle East.

He said the plans include the cooperation of the United Nations Commission on Migrant Workers (UNNSCOM). *Rocky Nazareno*

'Global' sure Abus will rescue him

By Anthony A. Allada
and Julie Alipala-Inot
PDI Mindanao Bureau

EDWIN BACASMAS

SABDULLA alias Commander Global: My men will spring me, even in Camp Aguinaldo.

DAVAO CITY—Jailed Abu Sayyaf leader Nadzmi Sabdulla, alias Commander Global, is confident his men would rescue him no matter where he's held.

Sabdulla is at the Davao del Norte provincial jail in Tagum City pending his trial for the May 22 attack on the Barcelo Pearl Farm Beach Resort in the Island Garden City of Samal.

Sabdulla said he supports moves to transfer him to a jail outside populated areas, since his men would still spring him even if he was brought all the way back to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

Sabdulla had run the gamut of jails in Mindanao before he was brought to Camp Aguinaldo. Another change of venue brought his trial to Davao del Norte.

Provincial officials, however, expressed security concerns following reports the Abu Sayyaf was in Tagum City to kidnap Davao del Norte Gov. Rodofo del Rosario or another ranking provincial official to force an exchange for Sabdulla.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police chief, said earlier the police were studying the possibility of holding Sabdulla at the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade headquarters in Mawab, Compostela Valley, or the police regional headquarters at Camp Catitipan, Davao City.

Global was brought to the Regional Trial Court Thursday morning for the start of his trial but, for the second time, Judge Gregorio Palabrica was forced to reset the hearing.

The first time was when Manila-based Senior State Prosecutor Leo Dacera failed to arrive. This time, it was because Sabdulla came to court without a lawyer.

Court-appointed defense counsel Artemio San Juan had refused to continue representing the Abu Sayyaf leader.

San Juan, a former provincial board member who represents three other accused in the case, said he would prove that his three clients have no connection to Global.

The Abu Sayyaf has continued to keep the military busy despite heightened government operations against the terrorist group.

Col. Pedrito Magsino, 601st Infantry Brigade chief, told a peace and order council meeting in Western Mindanao on Thursday that the military has received raw information that the Abu Sayyaf is planning to sow terror in Mindanao cities and Metro Manila.

Magsino said about 50 Filipino Muslims who had undergone training in Afghanistan arrived in Tawi-Tawi and Basilan in late September accompanied by six Afghans. The group was reportedly under orders to stage kidnappings and bombings.

"This is to divert attention from the intensified military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan," Magsino said.

"Accordingly, suspected terrorist leader Osama bin Laden had provided financial and material support to the group, in line with his call for a jihad against the US," Magsino added, without elaborating.

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7:30PM - 9:00PM

Saturday, 10 November 2001
9:00AM - 4:00PM

Seminar:
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, Makati City
Friday, 09 November 2001
6:00PM - 7:30PM

CEBU*

Open Info Day:
Function Room 2
Waterfront Hotel,
Lahug, Cebu City

Sunday, 11 November 2001
9:00AM - 2:00PM
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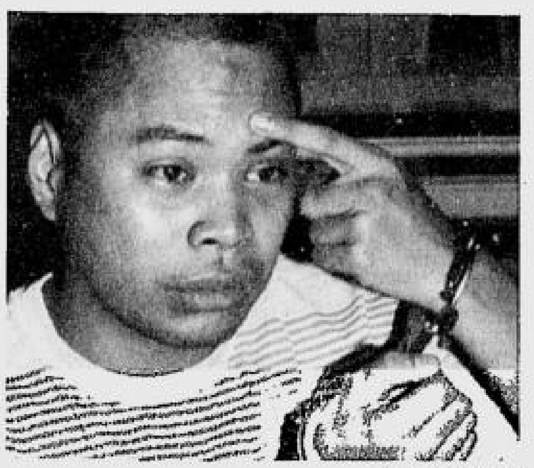
Zambo 'bomber' just a dreamer


CHARLIE SACEDA

GEONZON: I only finished Grade 2

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Most kids dream of becoming doctors, lawyers, even President, but not Marvin Geonzon, the suspect in the Oct. 28 Puericulture Center bombing here that killed five persons and wounded 46 others.

Geonzon said his dream was to become a well-known bomber—for which he studied how to make improvised bombs.

In an interview at the Zamboanga City Reformatory Center, Geonzon said he was also inspired by the limited information he had gathered about his idol—suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden.

"Bin Laden is not a schooled person. He is an Islam (sic), I am an Islam convert and I only finished grade two at Golden Values School at BF Homes Parañaque," Geonzon said.

The suspected bomber said he merely pretended to be a smart guy from the University of the Philippines and a member of the Abu Sayyaf and al-Qaida to gain the respect of his Tau Gamma fraternity brothers. It was not clear if the Tau Gamma he was referring to was the UP fraternity or a namesake gang.

"I pretended to be a bomber and a member of the Abu Sayyaf. *Sinabi ko sa kanila yon, pero ang totoo, hindi* (I told them that but the truth was I was not those things)," he said.

He also said he was able to fool his Tau Gamma brothers when he told them he had "worked in Libya."

"*Lahat naman sila naniwala* (They all believed me)," he said.

Erlinda Langkay, Geonzon's aunt and guardian, said her nephew was suffering from serious psychosis.

She said he was fond of tinkering with "all of our appliances because he was once a student at Tesda taking up electronics."

Tesda is the Technical Education and Skill Development Authority, a government agency.

Langkay said Geonzon became interested in Islam when he was living in Manila and he pursued his newly found faith here.

"*Pinabayaan na lang namin siya kasi baka magbago pa* (We just let him since he could still change)," she said.

She said that in 1999 they spent P75,000 to have the 26-year-old Geonzon treated. ***Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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'If they don't want me to go, then I won't go'

DETAINED ex-president Joseph Estrada said yesterday he was willing to put off his request to travel to the United States for medical treatment to avoid stirring up a controversy.

"If they don't want me to go, then I won't go," Estrada said in a radio interview after his request to be allowed to leave detention for medical treatment in the United States drew criticism.

Estrada, who is being held at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City while being tried on charges of corruption, had requested the anti-graft court to allow him to go abroad for treatment of pain in his knees and blurred vision.

However he said yesterday he was willing to put off his departure, remarking: "I can stand this for another year. This country has enough problems, let us not worry about my knees."

Estrada's US-based doctor earlier said the 64-year-old was suffering from "osteoarthritis of both knees" and needed specialized prostheses and implants only available in the United States.

The deposed leader said he had been undergoing treatment for his knees since 1998 but had delayed operation first to campaign for the presidency in 1998 and then because of the moves in Congress last year to impeach him for alleged corruption.

Estrada said his US-based doctor could not treat him in this country because he had certain equipment that could not be brought here.

He also said he was suffering from cataracts, adding "I cannot see things beyond eight meters away. I think it might be glaucoma."

However he said his eye doctor had facilities in this country which could be used to treat him.

On Thursday, Estrada's lawyers said they would ask the court to allow him to get a minor operation at home to remove a cyst in his left eye.

Pain in Estrada's eyes prompted the court to allow the deposed leader to skip the last two hearings of his corruption trial.

Estrada is accused of plundering some P4 billion during his 30-month presidency, which was ended by a military-backed popular uprising spawned by a corruption scandal in January. *AFP*

PROBE URGED

House bureaucracy 'bloated and chaotic'

HOUSE Minority Leader Carlos Padilla has asked the House accounts committee to investigate what he said was the "bloated and chaotic" House bureaucracy.

House Resolution 219, filed by Padilla, asked the committee to review the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the House secretariat and to cure it of the "glaring distortion and imbalance" in its organization.

"It defies logic that there are only two departments supporting the lawmaking function of the House, which is its primary function, vis-a-vis six departments servicing the House administrative requirements," said Padilla.

He claimed that the House was "lean" when the 8th Congress opened in 1987, but has since become a dumping ground for political appointees.

Padilla said that when the first post-Edsa Congress opened in 1987, the secretariat consisted of only two departments—one for legislative operations and the other for administrative matters.

"Delivery of technical and administrative services was efficient and swift. There was no cause for complaint," Padilla said in his resolution.

But succeeding House leaderships, each one with its own share of political accommodation and appointments, have produced the "present bloated and chaotic structure where there is no clear delineation of duties and responsibilities among the secretariat staff," Padilla said.

He said that while political accommodation was to be expected, there is a need for balancing and rationalizing the requirements of the House.

Bayani Apostol, Padilla's chief of staff, said Padilla wanted to prune the "disproportionate" number of offices and staffmembers under the secretariat, which includes the personnel, procurement, cashiering and engineering departments, among others.

He said the bulk of the House's work was with the legislative operations department, under which are the bills and index, bill drafting, plenary services and legislative research divisions.

Even as Padilla asked for a probe into the House bureaucracy, a new office has been created in the Office of the Speaker.

Reporters obtained a copy of Administrative Order No. 01B-01, which creates a "public relations and information bureau (Prib) in the public relations and information department (Prid)."

The AO stated that the Prib shall be "primarily responsible for overseeing the operations and consolidating the efforts of the service units under the (Prid) in formulating, implementing and managing a sound and unified public relations program that will enhance the image of the House."

House insiders observed that the new office would be merely duplicating the functions of House spokesperson Noel Albano, deputy secretary general for public information and Prid head.

The AO further states that the Prib is to be headed by an executive director 4 (with rank of director 5) who would be entitled to three staffmembers.

Some veteran House journalists observed that the Prid, which maintains the Media Affairs Office, was overstaffed.

17,000 bags of sugar rotting in Bicol–Oreta

SOME 17,000 bags of confiscated sugar worth millions of pesos are rotting in Bicol, according to opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta.

Oreta revealed this yesterday even as she urged Malacañang to "strengthen coordination among government agencies involved in the sale and distribution of seized food items."

"(The sugar) could have benefited hundreds of poor families yet the tons of sugar have been left rotting in Bicol for more than a year now," said Oreta in a press statement.

Oreta said the 17,000 bags of imported sugar are being kept in a National Food Authority warehouse in Tabaco, Albay.

The imported sugar was part of the 50,000 metric tons that the NFA brought into the country under the minimum access volume program. The shipment from Vietnam was impounded by the BOC allegedly because of lack of clearance.

But NFA officials have maintained that the cargo was already cleared by the Sugar Regulatory Administration for domestic consumption in September last year.

Oreta cited reports that the sugar was later cleared by the BOC for release without the payment of duties and taxes after the NFA pledged to pay the corresponding fees amounting to P113.2 million within a year.

The shipment was then transported to Albay where it was stored in the NFA warehouse since September 2000.

"This is another case of public funds gone to waste as a result of bureaucratic red tape and the lack of coordination between these two government agencies," Oreta said. *Rocky Nazareno*

13th-month bonus mandatory, Labor chief tells firms

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE LABOR department yesterday warned it would run after establishments refusing to give the mandatory 13th month pay because of the economic crisis.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas yesterday said employers cannot use financial distress as an excuse to withhold the 13th month pay.

In a press briefing yesterday, Sto. Tomas said the 13th month pay should be included in companies' planning cycle, as provided by law.

"Even if they are in distress, even if they have huge financial losses, employers are mandated to give the 13th month pay," the labor secretary said.

"We will run after those who will not comply with this," she added.

The Christmas bonus is another matter, however.

Sto. Tomas said that giving a holiday bonus remains the prerogative of the companies, hence the Christmas bonus does not form part of workers' packages every Christmas.

She dismissed as "purely speculative" earlier reports that some 2,000 companies would not be able to give the 13th month pay and Christmas bonus because of the economic downturn.

She said the reports may have been based on speculations that since around 1,900 firms did not give the 13th month pay last year, more firms would not be able to afford it this year.

"That was very speculative and has caused workers a lot of unnecessary anxiety," Sto. Tomas said, adding that the Dole would be monitoring compliance on this score.

Sto. Tomas clamps down on recruiters

By Blanche S. Rivera

LABOR Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday she would "make it hard" for new recruiters to enter the industry following reports of overseas Filipino workers being duped by some agencies.

The secretary said she would alter the requirements necessary to obtain recruitment licenses because "there are already too many recruitment agencies" in the country.

In a press conference yesterday, Sto. Tomas said she was already working out changes in the policies of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration with regard to recruitment firms.

The Dole will raise the required capital of recruitment firms from P1 million to P5 million.

Licenses would be terminated after committing just one violation that entailed an administrative sanction, Sto. Tomas said.

This is much stiffer than present sanctions in which a license can be revoked only after three violations, with the final decision being left to the Supreme Court.

"I will make it difficult for them to enter the industry . . . but I will hasten the deployment of OFWs," Sto. Tomas said.

There are about 1,300 licensed recruitment agencies nationwide, but there are many underground firms, which are able to send Filipino workers abroad, said POEA administrator Rosalinda Baldoz.

As of mid-year, Dole records show that 466,663 Filipinos have left the country to work abroad this year, exceeding the 459,832 in the same period last year. The government wants that figure to reach one million this year.

The Philippines has become one of the most popular sources of overseas labor in the world since 1979. The number of Filipinos leaving annually for migrant work reached a record 841,628 last year.

"Contrary to popular perception, many of those who are duped or experience difficult times abroad were deployed through illegal recruiters," Sto. Tomas said.

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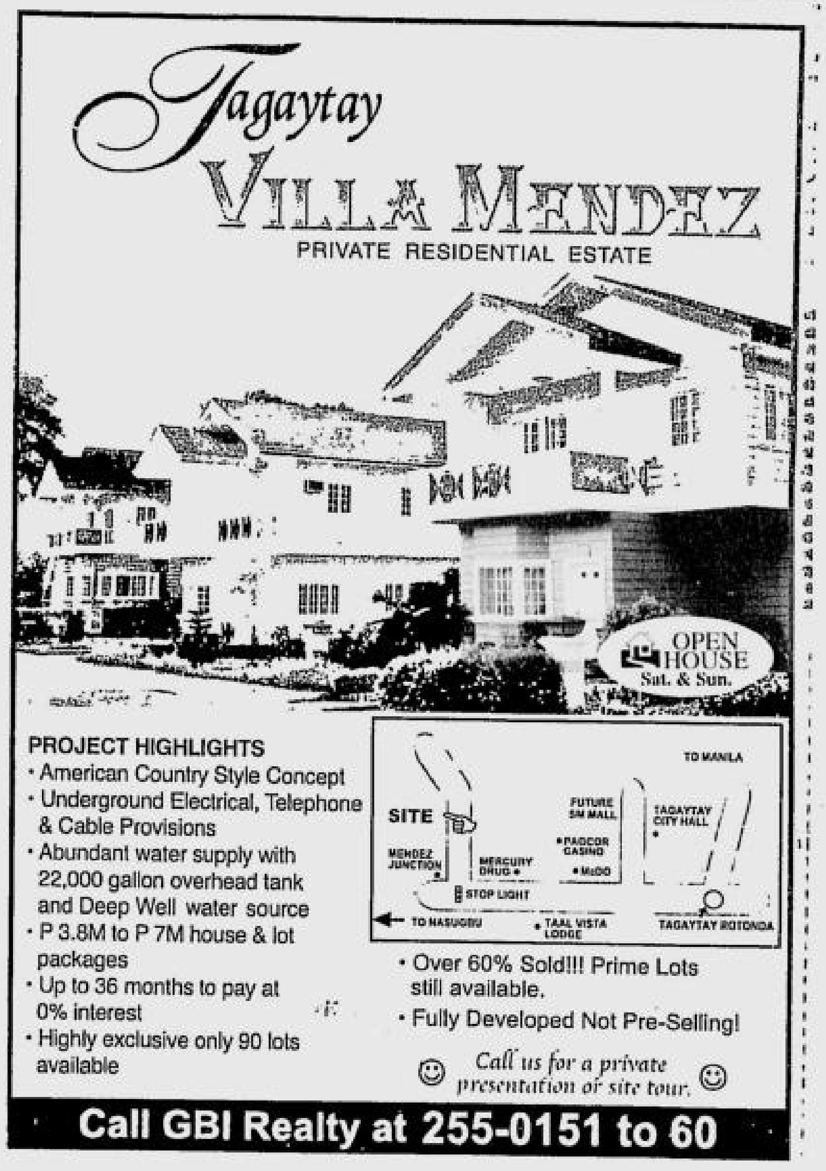

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Neither the Left, nor the Right can influence me–Gloria

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday that neither the Left nor the Right of the political spectrum would influence her decision on the long-standing coconut levy fund dispute.

"As I said earlier, when I study the issue (it will be) between God and me," the President said at her regular press conference in Malacañang.

"Nobody from the Right or the Left will be influencing me," she added.

Ms Macapagal was asked to comment on published reports that her administration had decided to drop proposals for a compromise agreement among the government, coconut farmers' groups and the bloc represented by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

The decision was reportedly reached at a meeting, Wednesday in Malacañang, which was attended by, among others, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo and Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

According to PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza, the government is ready to continue litigating the coco levy case before the Sandiganbayan, which has yet to decide on the ownership of the fund.

An estimated P40-P50 billion in levy funds is tied up in 27 percent of San Miguel Corp. shares. Cojuangco, an associate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, regained control of SMC after his friend, Joseph Estrada, became president in 1998.

The Cojuangco group has reportedly claimed the administration is set to enter into a compromise agreement with it, which would eventually result in the sale of the contested SMC shares.

Carranza said the government will enter into an agreement only if Cojuangco and his associates at the Coconut Producers Federation of the Philippines (Cocofed) recognize the coco levy as a public fund.

President Macapagal avoided a direct answer when asked if the government has slammed the door to an out-of-court settlement with Cojuangco.

"I have not even looked at the proposal yet," she said.

Cojuangco and his Cocofed associates have asserted that the levy, which was collected on the strength of a series of decrees issued by Marcos, is a private fund.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said yesterday she supports the government's decision not to rush into any out-of-court deal with Cojuangco over the coco levy issue.

GMA to lead prayer for peace

BY CARLITO PABLO
AND ARMAND NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will lead the nation in prayer for peace and unity at tomorrow's National Day of Prayer and Fasting at the Luneta.

But unlike last year, when ousted President Joseph Estrada presided over the rites, Protestant churches said they will turn out in full force at this year's observance.

In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, a National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP) official said that this year, Protestant and other non-Catholic denominations will participate in the service.

"There will be a true gathering of various churches tomorrow. This will be a real prayer for unity for the country,'" said Ronald Caraig of the NCCP media relations office.

The President is expected to lead in prayers for peace in the face of global terrorism and the threats the country is facing from the homegrown Abu Sayyaf terror group.

The President noted that prayers are part of the country's daily routine whether at home or at work.

But what makes tomorrow's day of prayer more meaningful, according to Ms Macapagal, is that "the whole world, including the Philippines, is in the grip of terror."

"It is, therefore, timely and proper that we as a people seek God's help against the global terror campaign of Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaida terrorist network and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group,'" the President said at her regular press conference yesterday.

Ms Macapagal also said the country is faced with a host of other problems, like too much politics, the economic crisis and the proliferation of illegal drugs.

"Let's pray to the Lord that politicians will unite and forego political partisanship," Ms Macapagal added.

Event organizers said they will not allow any kind of banners, streamers, flags and placards to be brought to the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park where the prayers will be said.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said the event is not a political rally, and political paraphernalia like banners and placards will be prohibited "so as not to sully the solemn occasion."

"We need to join our prayers before our Savior," the President said of the event, which will also be participated in by Muslims.

Ms Macapagal also urged the people to abstain from food, partially or in full tomorrow.

"Fasting is called 'prayer without words' because it is considered a spiritual exercise all its own," the President said.

Tomorrow's rites will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will culminate in Ms Macapagal's reading of a national prayer.

Senate Pro Tempore Manuel Villar, House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Chief Justice Hilario Davide will read prayers for national repentance, unity and return to holiness, respectively.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and other religious leaders will recite an interfaith invocation.

Sharon Cuneta, Gary Valenciano, Dulce and Jamie Rivera will render religious songs in between prayers and community singing.

Simultaneous celebrations will be held in key cities outside Metro Manila.

2 film producers to join President in Jakarta trip

TWO film producers will join President Macapagal-Arroyo's official business delegation during her state visit to Indonesia from Nov. 12 to 13.

Ms Macapagal said the two movie producers will set up the distribution of Filipino films in the world's largest Muslim nation.

She decided to include movie producers in her business delegation since Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, during her state visit here last Aug. 21-22, had intimated that Indonesians love to watch Filipino movies.

She said the two countries "can do business together" in this matter. She did not identify the two movie producers.

Ms Macapagal will sign border and fisheries agreements with Megawati. "This is something that has been sought after for many, many years now," she said.

They will also take up the issue of arms smuggling between the Philippines and Indonesia, which Megawati raised during her state visit here.

Ms Macapagal said she will "describe to President Megawati what our defense establishment is doing with regard to the smuggling of small arms."

She said the two countries can come up with an "operational" agreement on arms smuggling without waiting for the signing of the proposed multilateral anti-terrorism front in the region.

The proposed anti-terrorism front includes the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

12-YEAR-CASE

Sandiganbayan orders Bejo to appear for arraignment

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE GOVERNMENT scored a minor victory yesterday in its 12-year-old graft case against Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo "'Bejo" Romualdez when the Sandiganbayan warned the latter to appear for his arraignment on Dec. 13.

Romualdez, brother of former first lady Imelda R. Marcos, had been avoiding a trial since he was charged with graft in 1989 for his alleged illegal takeover of the Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. (Baseco).

The anti-graft court said this was the last time Romualdez's arraignment would be reset. It would take "appropriate action" against him, it said, if he still failed to attend the hearing on that day.

Romualdez was able to delay his arraignment in the case for the past three years by filing several motions for cancellation, deferment and reconsideration, the Presidential Commission on Good Government said.

"The PCGG wants Bejo to be finally arraigned and will help the Ombudsman prosecute him," said PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza.

The PCGG is also seeking the arrest of another Imelda brother, former ambassador Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, who was charged with graft last week for holding two government posts simultaneously from 1976 to 1986.

"The PCGG wants the Romualdez brothers to be held accountable for the graft they allegedly committed during the regime of their brother-in-law Ferdinand Marcos and sister Imelda," Carranza said.

Kokoy Romualdez, when he was governor of Leyte, was appointed ambassador to several countries—China, Saudi Arabia and the United States—by Marcos.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said Romualdez knew fully well the appointment was in violation of existing laws but he used his influence with his brother-in-law to get it anyway.

He received salaries in both posts. As an ambassador from 1976 to 1986, he was paid $276,911.56, or its peso equivalent of P5,806,709.50, to the "damage and prejudice of the government," the Ombudsman said.

As Leyte governor, he received an accumulated salary of P293,348.86.

The PCGG filed a complaint against Kokoy Romualdez in 1987, but he fled the country and stayed away for 15 years.

When he returned, he asked the Ombudsman to dismiss the criminal case against him claiming the "prescription" period had lapsed after so many years.

The Ombudsman denied his motion and filed the case with the Sandiganbayan recently.

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DOH pushes fertility beads but success depends on 'machos'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

DISCIPLINE, sacrifice and self-control—traits sorely lacking in macho Filipino males—will make or unmake the Department of Health's new population control program.

The DOH said the traits, coupled with the beaded necklaces women will be made to wear to indicate their fertile periods, should make its latest birth control scheme work.

"It will rely mostly on the self-control and mutual understanding of couples," said Population Commission (Popcom) Director Tomas Osias, of the government's new tack in trying to solve the population problem through natural means.

The necklace will consist of 32 beads, with the first set colored red to indicate the woman's menstrual cycle.

On the eighth day, or eighth bead, another color—such as green—will indicate that the eighth to 19th days are a fertile period and the couple should not have sexual contact then.

A rubber band in the necklace is pushed between the beads daily to allow the wearer to keep track of the days of her menstrual cycle.

By wearing the necklace, the Popcom said a couple will not only be reminded of the fertile days, but also of their promise to keep their family small.

This early, the concept has met with cynicism and criticism from persons who doubt it would work, given the libido and machismo of the Filipino male.

They argue that only artificial contraceptives could work best for Filipinos.

Osias, however, is optimistic the necklace will work.

"It will keep couples fully involved in the effort to have fewer children," he said, adding the concept was pilot-tested in Benguet province last year where it proved to be successful.

He said the DOH will soon formally introduce the necklace to the general public.

Filipino women have been giving birth an average of "3.7 times per woman," compared to the world average of 2.9 births per woman.

The Philippines has a population of 76.5 million and is growing by 1.7 million a year. There are three Filipino babies born every minute.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 10, 2001
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	*Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27*
Gospel:	*Lk 16:9-15*

Jesus said to his disciples, "And so I tell you: use filthy money to make friends for yourselves, so that when it fails, these people may welcome you into the eternal homes.

Whoever can be trusted in little things can also be trusted in great ones; whoever is dishonest in slight matters will also be dishonest in greater ones. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling filthy money, who could entrust you with true wealth? And if you have not been trustworthy with things which are not really yours, who will give you the wealth which is your own?

No servant can serve two masters. Either he does not like the one and is fond of the other, or he regards one highly and the other with contempt. You cannot give yourself both to God and to Money."

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and sneered at Jesus. He said to them, "You do your best to be considered righteous by people. But God knows the heart, and what rises high among humans is loathed by God."

Commentary:

The Pharisees sees no conflict between worldly possessions and the Law of God. Jesus demands more. We know very well from our experience of human nature how worldly values can often be obstacles to Gospel life. In his word to the Pharisees, Jesus says that what human nature values is and what is also displeasing to God. To his disciples, his word is a challenge in their inadequacy. The worldly generation is more clever in getting what they want than are believers. Achievement is the ideal of the world. Those who succeed are go-getters, spending all their energies to get more. Would that we become also as enterprising in Gospel life! Like investing all our resources in our future dwellings, that is, heaven.

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Sandigan employees side with Garchitorena

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

AN ORGANIZATION of Sandiganbayan employees yesterday sided with Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena in his word war against 3rd Division chair Justice Anacleto Badoy.

In a statement, the Sandiganbayan Employees Association called the allegations of incompetence and absenteeism raised by Garchitorena against Badoy as "true and correct."

It served as counterweight to the civil society groups who earlier backed Badoy and saw him as a victim of a demolition job by the camp of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

Badoy heads the division which handles three of the four Estrada cases being heard by the anti-graft court, including the main charge of plunder, a capital offense.

The statement, written in Filipino and was still being circulated at press time, has been signed by 115 of its 284 members as of 4 p.m. yesterday. It read:

"We, the staff and employees led by SEA, fully believe that the allegations made by our Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena were undoubtedly true."

'We support the actions being taken by our Presiding Justice in connection with the feud (bangayan) between him and the Honorable Anacleto Badoy Jr."

"The contents of the letter which our Presiding Justice sent to the Honorable Chief Justice . . . with regards to the state of affairs in the Sandiganbayan were entirely true and correct."

The two magistrates openly bickered in the media early this week after Badoy called for a press conference on Nov. 4 claiming that Garchitorena had pressured him to resign from his post.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK ONE)—Overt acts—Overt acts has been defined as some physical activity or deed, indicating the intention to commit a particular crime, more than a mere planning or preparation, which if carried to its complete termination following its natural courts, without being frustrated by external obstacles nor by the voluntary desistance of the perpetrator, will logically and necessarily ripen into a concrete offense. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Bellosillo, People v. Mauricio, G.R. No. 133695, February 28, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Nida's pal sought for questioning

(From page A1)

She was last seen alive on Tuesday afternoon at the 33rd-floor office of the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board, of which she was a member.

MTRCB Executive Director Racquel N. Rey said petty crimes had earlier occurred at the 6th-floor lot where board employees parked their vehicles.

"A board member's car was vandalized sometime in June or July. One of the cars there was also robbed. We reported these to the (San Juan) police. But until now, there has been no follow-up on the cases," she said.

Building administrator Amy Syquio confirmed that a car parked at the 6th floor had been vandalized. But she denied that a robbery had ever taken place.

Syquio also confirmed receipt of the MTRCB request for a permanent guard but said they could not comply because it would be "too costly."

"You understand, I'm running the building on a tight budget," she told the INQUIRER.

No stranger

Gualberto backed the NBI theory that Blanca knew her killer/s.

He said Task Force Marsha agents had gathered that Blanca was seen at a restaurant on Tuesday night, but the eyewitness was still being identified and sought.

Investigators have also gathered that no one saw Blanca leave the building, and that there was no record of her departure in the security logbook.

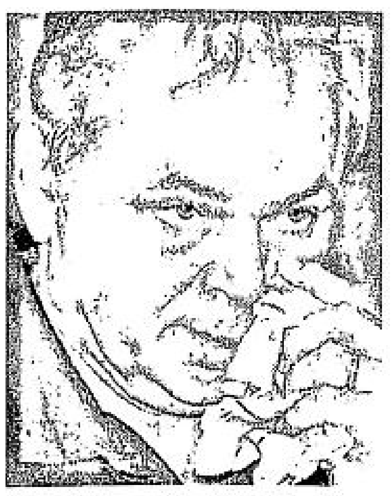
Chief Supt. George Aliño, director of the Eastern Police District which has jurisdiction over San Juan, said investigators were looking into Blanca's work at the MTRCB, personal grudges and "family affairs."

"We are still not ruling out the possibility of robbery although it is quite remote because some pieces of jewelry were left intact," Aliño said, adding:

"We will eliminate angles as we gather evidence and testimony until we focus on at least two angles and later pinpoint a central angle."

Aliño said Task Force Marsha—made up of crack investigators from the CIDG, PNP Crime Laboratory, National Capital Region Police Office and EPD—was "working double-time" and holding case conferences twice a day.

"We are almost sleepless," he said. "We are trying to do this slowly and surely. If we are able to pinpoint a definite angle, then we will know the motive behind (the killing), and we can make the necessary arrests."



STRUNK

Lead agency

Wycoco said that to prevent confusion, the PNP would be the lead agency in the investigation of Blanca's killing.

He said that the NBI would be only a supporting unit and that all the evidence and witnesses would be turned over to the police.

He said Aliño would serve as official spokesperson for the investigation.

But this did not sit well with some NBI agents, one of whom said the decision was meant only to give a reason, if the case is solved, for the extension of the PNP chief's term.

Wycoco said the killer/s apparently wiped off fingerprints from Blanca's car and tampered with what could possibly be incriminating evidence before fleeing.

He cited "indications that there were movements inside the vehicle."

But NBI medico-legal chief Maximo Reyes said on Thursday that there was no sign that a struggle occurred inside the car.

Wycoco said that while they had interrogated possible witnesses and were getting phoned-in tips, "it's not easy to take their statements at face value."

He said the NBI had received reports that Blanca went to a casino in Parañaque City, but he pointed out that this was not on the day she went missing.

He also denied that the bureau already had a suspect in custody, debunking a tip that a woman has been arrested "in relation to the casino angle."

Modernization

The President said private security agencies, especially those in Metro Manila, should "modernize" alongside the PNP, NBI and Armed Forces.

"It's not enough that they know how to fire a gun. They should be trained in crime investigation and crime prevention," she said.

But she added that "this is not aimed at criticizing the private security company that is responsible for the Atlanta Center building incident."

"This is a call on the organization whose main job is to give security to the tenants or those working in buildings, homes and commercial establishments," she said.

The President said security agencies should be stricter in recruiting guards, especially in the light of the threat of global terrorism.

"All organizations involved in security should heighten their crime-prevention and crime-investigation capability against all crimes and terrorism," she said.

The Atlanta Center's Syquio said she had assigned a "roving" guard at the MTRCB parking area. But Rey complained they had only seen this guard once, prompting them to "assign" drivers to secure the area.

Syquio, however, said: "But he was a roving guard! Maybe when they checked he had gone to other floors."

An office manager in the building said security there was quite tight, except for one thing: "When we come in, they don't check what's inside our bags. I've also heard these from people I've worked with . . . In effect, you can bring anything inside because they don't check." *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan and Luige del Puerto*

Rebel and actress: Unlikely friendship

(From page A1)

gling with cadres. I admired her for that," he said.

But he clarified that contrary to reports, he did not surrender and was merely asked by Quirino to return to the fold of the law.

"I did not surrender to Nida, as reported, simply because I was not asked to surrender. President Quirino asked us to come down," he said.

But not long afterward, he and his comrades headed back to the hills after a "Leninist wing" of the Huks tried to kill him, he said.

Taruc and Blanca met again in 1954, this time with the then young journalist Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., whom Taruc described as a very close friend.

By that time Ramon Magsaysay was president, and he had asked Aquino to convince Taruc to once more emerge from the underground.

TARUC

"That meeting with Nida was a short one and the last time I met her in person," Taruc said.

But all these years, even throughout his 15-year incarceration, he cherished the friendship he had with the actress.

"She left such a deep impression that all through the years and despite the distance, I still considered her a dear friend," he said.

Biopic

A film depicting the life and times of actress Nida Blanca is the highest tribute that the movie industry can give one of its brightest stars, according to Taruc.

Taruc told the INQUIRER that such a film would make Blanca's millions of fans like himself truly happy, the way she did when she was alive.

He described Blanca as a symbol of the masses and an inspiration especially to ordinary people dreaming of a good life.

Sharp at 88, the commander of the then Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) whose life is said to have inspired the South African revolutionary-turned president Nelson Mandela, candidly admitted that he went out of his way to watch Blanca's movies and sitcoms, like the long-running "John en Marsha."

"I am a deep admirer of Nida Blanca, who was truly a decent and respectable lady," Taruc said. "I thank her and other artists like Dolphy, Nestor (de Villa) and others like them for making people happy."

He said that by watching Blanca's movies or her sitcoms, "ordinary people could momentarily forget life's miseries."

Shock

Taruc said he was shocked and saddened by news of Blanca's death.

"I wish I can pay tribute to my dear friend, but with my frail knees, I'm afraid I can't make it anymore," he lamented.

"I just hope the movie industry will cherish the wonderful memories she left behind," he added.

Client disowns lawyer's bribery rap vs Desierto

(From page A1)

categorically deny the allegations of Atty. Ernesto Francisco Jr. that I bribed Desierto or any other government official," Roxas said in a statement.

Desierto said the impeachment complaint against him "is now practically dead."

"The fact that Francisco's allegations were untrue, according to his principal, means that the complaint has no basis after all. It's good that the truth has come out this early and Francisco's perjured statement has been discredited," Desierto said in an interview.

Roxas said he did not authorize Francisco to file on his behalf the impeachment complaint with the House of Representatives last Tuesday.

The businessman, the controlling stockholder ASB Realty and owner of the Bank of Southeast Asia, now known as DBS-Philippines, accused Francisco of "gross unethical conduct."

Not bothered

Francisco said he was "not at all bothered" by his former client's denial.

"With or without his (Roxas) corroboration, I can prove that what I have been saying is true," Francisco said.

Francisco said it was "understandable" that Roxas issued the denial as he was beset with problems in his businesses.

Francisco said Roxas issued the denial as he had either listened to the advice of his lawyers or Desierto.

Roxas executed an affidavit with the Accra law firm on Nov. 8 to denounce Francisco. A copy of the affidavit was sent to Desierto only yesterday. Desierto, in turn, provided copies to reporters.

Roxas said he executed the affidavit "in the interest of justice."

In his one-page affidavit, Roxas said he received a threatening letter on Nov. 7 from Francisco and a copy of the impeachment complaint.

Without going into details, Roxas denied allegations that he ordered Francisco to give video equipment and half a million pesos to Desierto.

In his letter to Roxas last Monday, Francisco said he told him that by telling the truth on the Desierto bribery, the businessman would be able to "vindicate himself."

Francisco said the move by Roxas to defer the Office of the Ombudsman's investigation of his former bank, the Bank of Southeast Asia, for a few months in 1997 made sense.

"We were trying to save the bank and prevent a bank run then," Francisco said. "It was for a good cause."

"I never gave money to Ombudsman Desierto, and I never authorized anyone to do so. Neither did I ever spend, or cause the spending of any sum for anything for any other government official," Roxas said.

"By "revealing publicly without my

I entrusted to him as my lawyer, Francisco has betrayed his lawyer's oath," the businessman said.

He added: "I am certain that I never met Ombudsman Desierto under the purported circumstances narrated by Atty. Francisco."

Francisco had claimed that he personally handed Desierto P500,000 in "goodwill money" on Sept. 10, 1997 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Earlier, he said an emissary of Desierto had received the video equipment.

But Roxas said: "I believe he (Desierto) does not know me and will never recognize me if we meet."

Desierto said Francisco violated the confidentiality rule between a client and lawyer by "revealing all his client's transactions."

The Ombudsman said he could adopt Roxas' affidavit in countering Francisco's complaint when he submitted documents to the House of Representatives. "But I am not bound to use it," he said.

Desierto said the affidavit could not be submitted to the House because "the complaint has not yet been recorded in Congress."

Desierto disclosed that his office had already finished preparing the complaint for disbarment against Francisco.

"We will file it next week," the Ombudsman said.

Francisco asked Desierto not to use the resources of his office in defending himself.

He urged Desierto to go on leave and hire a private lawyer to defend himself, following the Ombudsman's recent pronouncements that he has asked his office to study charges to file against him.

"He (Desierto) should not use his office to defend himself and harass the complainant or possible witnesses," Francisco said.

Improper

The lawyer said it was improper for the Ombudsman to use his office to investigate him and other witnesses.

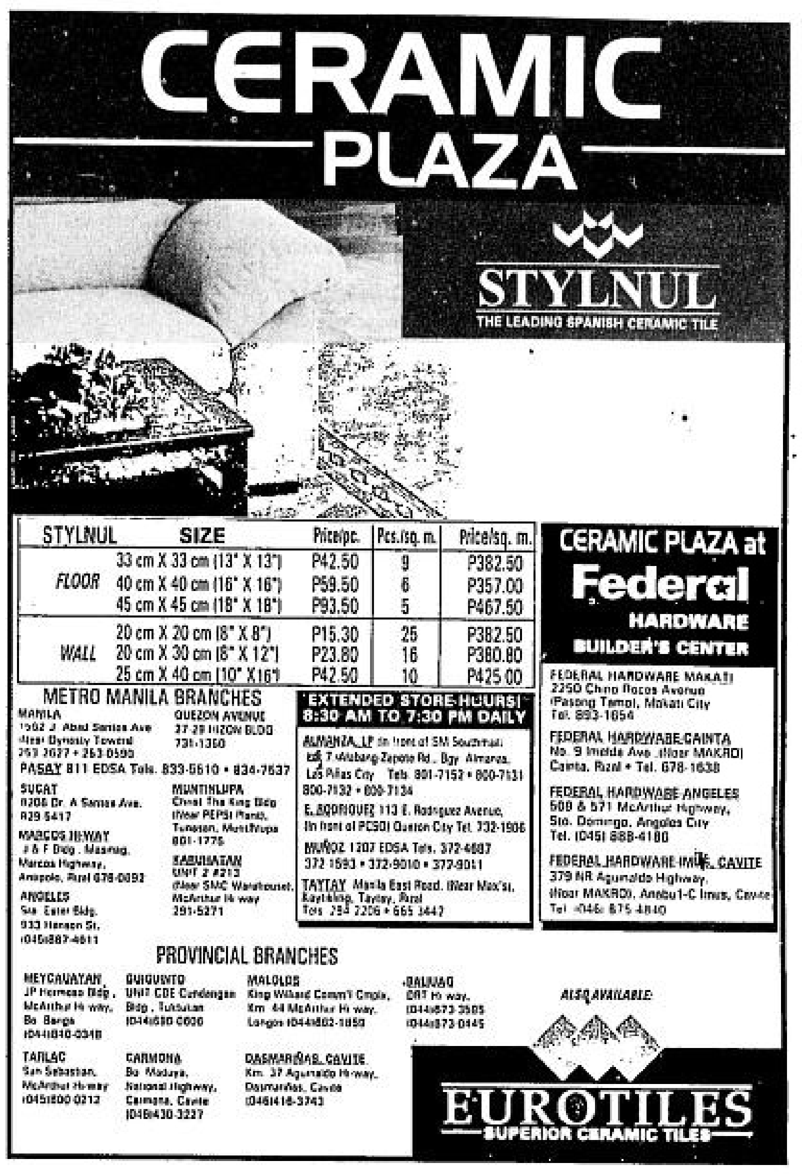
He also threatened to file charges against any member of the Ombudsman's office "who will allow themselves to be used for (Desierto's) personal ends."

Francisco expressed sadness over Roxas' denial, saying that his former client was "missing an opportunity to do something good."

"We should have learned from the lessons of the (Joseph Estrada) impeachment proceedings," he said.

Francisco said that when he wrote Roxas four days ago he told him that he could invoke Presidential Decree No. 749, which would allow him to seek immunity from prosecution for bribery.

He said this was the same law invoked by former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson when he blew the



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OPINION

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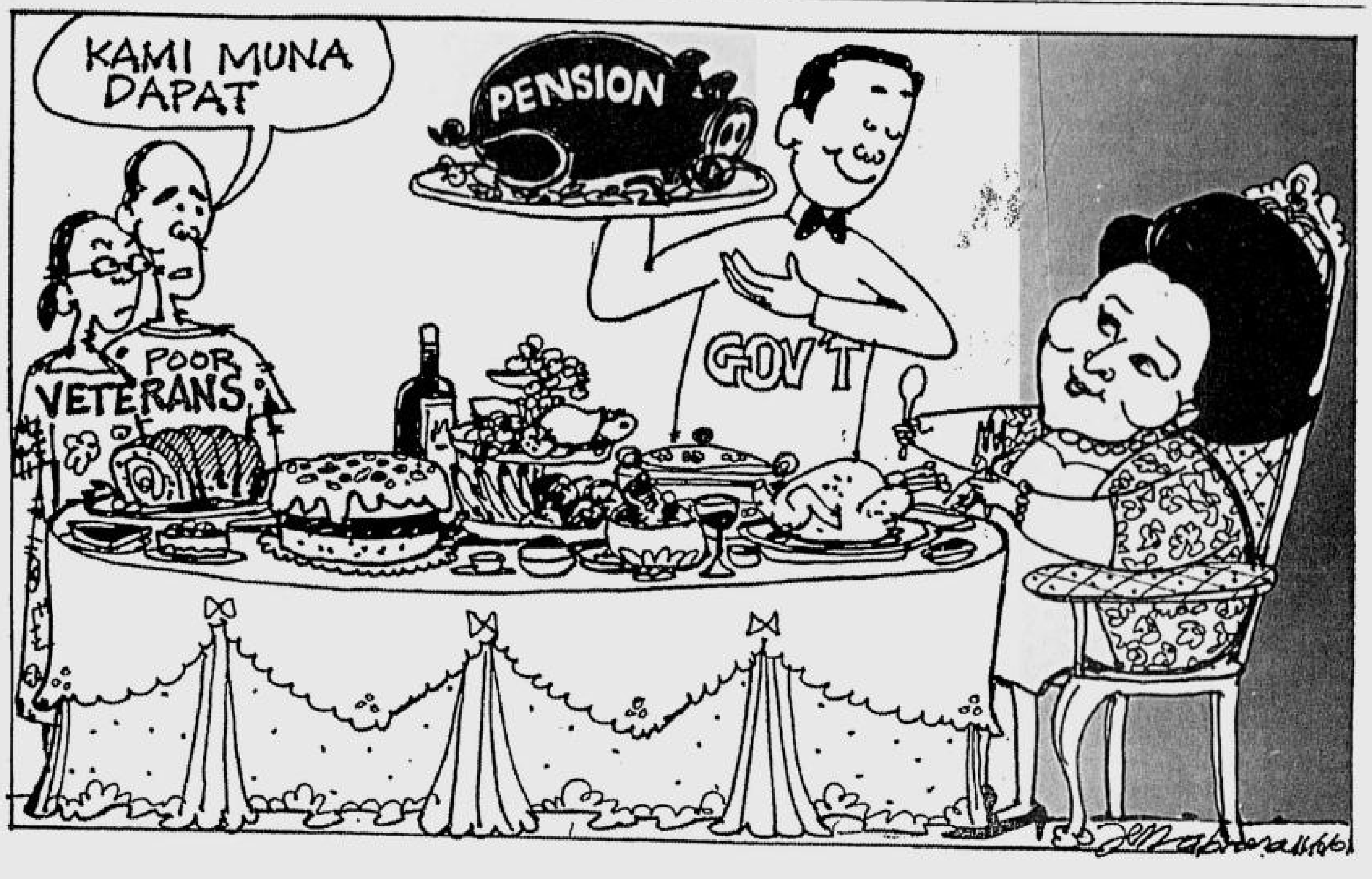


A continuing scourge

EDITORIAL

DEPENDING on the source of the statistics, the number of kidnapping-for-ransom cases has increased dramatically during the past 10 months or the Philippine National Police has at last turned the corner in combating the kidnap syndicates.

Teresita Ang-See, a leader of the Chinese-Filipino community and member of the National Anti-Crime Commission, says that as of Oct. 31, the number of kidnapping incidents for 2001 stood at 105, involving 225 victims. Based on an independent set of statistics compiled by the Citizens Action against Crime and the Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order, Ang-See paints a grim picture. Kidnapping incidents during the first 10 months of 2001 shot up to 105, compared to 79 in 2000 and 76 in 1999.

The number of victims during the 10-month period rose to 225, six more than the 219 in all of 2000 and two-thirds more than the 135 in 1999. The worst year was 1997, when there were 159 kidnapping incidents and 138 kidnap victims. "This is the worst we have seen in the eight years that we have been involved in the anti-kidnapping campaign," says Ang-See whose statistics damn the current PNP leadership and make the record of the past leadership under Director General Panfilo Lacson of the defunct PAOCFT look good by comparison.

Statistics are not supposed to tell a lie, but the context in which they are interpreted tells a different story. The PNP does not gild the lily. But it has smaller figures. Official police records show that the number of kidnapping incidents during the first 10 months rose to 82, almost double that of last year's 48, and the number of victims increased to 149, double that of last year's 73.

But PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza has a spin. He says the reason for the rise of statistics is that more incidents are now being reported to the police, indicating more cooperation between the police and the victims' families and an increase of trust in the police. The police cite records of "solution efficiency," in which they have solved an average of six cases a month, meaning cases sent to the fiscals for prosecution or to the courts.

As Mendoza has pointed out, kidnapping has been a serious concern since 1992, the year when the Ramos administration named then Vice President Joseph Estrada head of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission. What this tells us is that over three administrations, the kidnapping scourge has defied solution, and so it is pointless to highlight comparative crime rates in three administrations. Last month, representatives of the Chinese-Filipino community called on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to warn her of the dramatic rise in kidnapping incidents.

Police reports indicate a change in the pattern of kidnappings. There is no longer a centralized syndicate suspected of being responsible for the kidnappings. The syndicates have fragmented. Whether or not this decentralization has helped the police, the statistics show the PNP has failed to curb the crime rate.

The revamp of the PNP leadership following the overthrow of the Estrada regime has not shown any perceptible improvement in the PNP's capacity to fight the syndicates that have proliferated. Kidnapping, like the garbage mess, has become an endemic disease felt mostly in Metro Manila. Apparently, a strong hand is needed in the PNP for a crackdown on the syndicates, especially so in the light of the fact that rogue members of the police force have been part of the syndicates.

It is hardly appreciated by the national authorities that in the midst of the crisis stemming from terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, tourists and investors have shunned the Philippines not so much because of fear of home-grown terrorist strikes but because we can't ensure the safety of our citizens from kidnappers. We don't need the Abu Sayyaf to frighten visitors from coming to this country. Crimes and the garbage are making Manila the least attractive destination for visitors and investment.

All the overseas visits of the President and the road shows of her diplomatic envoys to sell the Philippines as a tourist and investment destination are undermined by the failure to crush the syndicates. The Macapagal administration has a lot of homework to do not in the field of foreign policy but on the home front.

Dirty linen

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

CHIEF Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. is scheduled to confer this morning with Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena of the Sandiganbayan and Justice Anacleto Badoy of its Third Division over their public quarrel. Their less than judicious conduct is putting the entire judiciary in a bad light.

According to the papers, Garchitorena has called Badoy a "liar, incompetent and often absent." He had earlier made similar complaints in an official letter to the Supreme Court, in keeping with the prescribed procedure, except that he later distributed copies to the press, thus making the confidential matter public. Garchitorena now claims he did this only in reaction to the press conference called by Badoy where he refuted the letter and thus, in effect, publicized it himself. He says it was Badoy, not he, who released it to the media.

Garchitorena sent the letter in his capacity as administrative head of the Sandiganbayan. Whatever his reasons, he should not have given copies of it to the press while the matter was under consideration by the Supreme Court. For his part, Badoy was not justified in calling that press conference to attack Garchitorena publicly. What he should have done was answer the Garchitorena complaint in his own official communication to the high tribunal and thereby kept the quarrel private.

Both parties are aware of the rule in administrative proceedings involving members of the judiciary. The proceedings are held in strictest confidence to avoid any unfair premature reflection on the respondents and on the judiciary as a whole. This stricture applies to all judges, including those in the lower ranks and more so in the higher courts.

Both Garchitorena and Badoy violated that strict requirement. They called each other names in public without regard to the adverse effect of their recklessness on the institution to which they both belong.

What they did was act no better than brawling lawmakers except that rowdiness is part of the legislative process and no longer impairs the already tainted image of Congress. Indecorous conduct is also not unusual in Malacañang as when the president entertained Spanish royalty in a baseball cap or his successor scooped *sinaing* with his fingers in a show of democracy in action.

The judiciary is different because, for all the criticisms that have been leveled against it, it is still considered the more temperate and the most dignified among the three major branches of the government. You do not see justices of the Supreme Court participating in fashion shows like the senators or facing extradition proceedings or life sentences like some congressmen. Judges are supposed to lead sheltered lives removed from the rough-and-tumble of the hustings.

We are not likely to be shocked when a senator is accused of drug trafficking and money laundering or when even a sitting president is charged with plunder. But a whiff of scandal against a justice is sure to shake the rafters of the judiciary as the best behaved of the three departments.

I know both Garchitorena and Badoy only slightly and so cannot tell much about their character. I may presume though that they are both honorable men although perhaps more impulsive than most of us. I hope they can explain their respective sides with less acrimony when they confer today with Chief Justice Davide beyond the glare of provocative publicity.

The ordinary citizen is not what is called a "proper party" in these proceedings. He is only part of the general public as an ordinary spectator in the interesting exchange between these superior judges. The judgment in this unfortunate dispute is to be made not by the curious observer but by the Supreme Court in the exercise of its administrative authority over all lower courts.

The tiff between the two jurists has tangential significance on the pending charges against Joseph Estrada in the Sandiganbayan. Already, the defense is asking for the disqualification of Badoy and invoking the Garchitorena charges against him to support its motion. For its part, the prosecution is accusing Garchitorena of partiality for his summary dismissal of the perjury indictment against Estrada without his even asking for it.

At a time when confidence in the judiciary is being frayed, rightly or wrongly, notwithstanding the Chief Justice's exemplary leadership, it is important that all suggestions of judicial impropriety be examined privately so as not to unduly raise unfair conclusions not warranted by the facts. Only after the investigation shall have been concluded and the findings are verified should they be made known to the public, without distortion or suppression, as is its right.

I recall one occasion when the members of the First Division of the Supreme Court had a disagreement over a tax case that, unfortunately, deteriorated into a war of words that the media publicized. As former chair of that division, I presided over a luncheon attended by its past and present members to iron out the misunderstanding. Fortunately, the protagonists said at the outset that there was no dispute and that ended the matter outright. Everyone enjoyed his lunch.

And then there was that curious incident when a retiring justice of the Supreme Court, after receiving the encomium of his colleagues, surprised the audience when he blasted the judiciary and suggested the investigation of some of its members, including those in the high tribunal itself. The suggestion was *per se* valid, but it was hardly the occasion.

Let us hope that the Garchitorena-Badoy tiff will also end on a happy note. Meanwhile, both the antagonists should keep quiet and let the Supreme Court decide.

Shrinking the twilight zone

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THERE'S a lot of people out there who are wringing their hands as controversies heaped upon scandals hit the media. They view these developments as a sign of anarchy, of a situation out of control, of leaders run amok. And they either express their disgust or implore everyone involved to "stop playing politics," or "go back to work" or "think about the country."

There is no doubt that partisan politics is a major consideration in some of these accusations and counteraccusations—it was always thus and it will ever be so. Many politicos are already positioning for the next elections, and their actions are self-serving rather than others-serving.

On the whole, however, I view what is happening as a good sign. It is a sign that democracy is alive and well, and more: that in the struggle to move from a soft state toward a hard state, the good guys are holding their own, and even making some headway. The battle for the Filipino soul may be far from over, but it is also far from lost. Let me elaborate.

A hard state is defined as a state where rules are implemented strictly, while a soft state is where rules and their implementation are subject to market transactions: they can be bought and sold. Everything is subject to negotiations in a soft state, from traffic violations to murder charges. In a hard state, when one breaks the law, one expects to be punished, no matter one's position: US President Bill Clinton getting impeached for lying, and later getting disbarred is an excellent case in point.

One can also describe a soft state as one where the twilight zone (where activities are rent-seeking, rather than productive, the former being much more profitable) is larger than the zone of light (where there is transparency and accountability). Therefore, the move from a soft to a hard state can be described as decreasing the twilight zone and increasing the zone of light, which is what governance reform is all about.

The soft state being wasteful, inefficient and crisis-prone, its transformation to a hard state is devoutly to be wished. But this will happen only over the dead bodies (figuratively speaking) of those who benefit from rent-seeking activities and will fight tooth and nail for the status quo.

Which is why governance reform is difficult. The effort is associated with a J-curve: things have to get worse before they get better. The silver lining in a soft state is that frequent crises result in calls for reforms, which serve as windows of opportunity for transformation to take place.

When viewed in this light, the "disturbing" events take on a very different cast.

The pending cases against former President Estrada give the unequivocal and very heartening message that no one is above the law (although the effect is somewhat spoiled by the perks allowed him).

The charges and countercharges surrounding the pre-Senate life of Panfilo Lacson manifest the earnest efforts to stop drug money from taking control in the Philippines and turning it into a narco-state.

The increased interceptions of smuggled goods—rice and sugar, drugs—indicate that no longer is a blind eye being turned to smuggling activities, which was what was happening in the recent past, to the great benefit of a favored and crooked few.

A similar attitude is demonstrated by the Supreme Court, with its dismissal of a regional trial court judge for granting hospital privileges to a woman jailed for drug dealing (the Supreme Court had earlier dismissed a justice of the Court of Appeals for intervening in her case).

Investigations going on within or regarding the SSS and the GSIS are an unmistakable sign that more people, both in the private and government sectors, are willing to blow the whistle on irregular and anomalous transactions.

Ernesto Francisco Jr., a young lawyer from the Ateneo, is one of those people, and may their tribe increase.

Jun Francisco's whistle-blowing started three years ago, when he obtained a temporary restraining order against a rate increase in the coastal tollway. It was a lonely and costly beginning. He had to give up a promising career (eight years) with the Accra law offices.

Undaunted, he continued to blow the whistle. He filed plunder charges against prominent personalities like Estrada, Virata, Zamora and Velarde, in connection with the same Coastal Road tollway project. And now he has taken on Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, charging him with corruption for receiving P500,000 in cash and P273,000 worth of electronic equipment in return for delaying the investigation of a case.

A veritable David is our Jun, fighting not one but several Goliaths.

But they seem to be winning. He already faces disbarment for saying in an interview that there is corruption in the judicial system (his faith in the Supreme Court was such that he sent them copies of the magazine article, hoping that they would pursue the matters he brought up). Now Desierto is having him "investigated" and is threatening to file another disbarment charge.

The zone of light forces can ill-afford to lose a man like Jun Francisco. His victory may or may not serve as a beacon to other lawyers and businessmen who are ashamed of the express or implied role they play in fostering corruption. But his defeat will definitely discourage the whistle-blowing that is necessary to shrink the twilight zone.

In that light, Jun Francisco's fight is also our fight. We must help him—for our sake.

Stunning changes in Beijing

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BEIJING—When Immigration Commissioner Andrea Dizon-Domingo asked me and two other media people to join her on a visit to the Chinese capital and a few other cities upon the invitation of the immigration authorities here, I jumped at it. The last time I was in Beijing was 11 years ago, and I have heard people say how much it has changed since. The first time I saw China was in 1980, when I joined a big delegation of Filipino publishers and editors for an 18-day visit. I have had occasion to visit again in 1987 and 1989 as a tourist, and I could see change creeping in.

Arriving here the other evening, I was stunned at how fast Beijing had changed over the past 11 years., People here say the big leap came over the last 10 years, triggered by steady and assiduous policy reforms, the most important of which being opening up the economy to the West. Many of the changes, in fact, have come as recently as five years ago.

* * *

In 1980 China was just beginning to look outward. Only one American company was starting construction of its plant: Coca-Cola. Now, as China prepares to join the globalized economy through the World Trade Organization during the conference in Qatar, one notes American food chains all over the place: some 50 McDonald's, 40 Kentucky Fried Chicken and 40 Pizza Hut outlets and so many Kenny Rogers, Starbucks and Hard Rock Cafés. As one wise guy put it, where the West failed to subdue the sleeping giant militarily, it did so via its giant food-chain outlets, which have apparently seduced the Chinese youngsters, revolutionizing their ancient diet.

A "McDo" costs $1.20 and the Chinese youth are gobbling it up. As our 27-year-old Chinese guide Jessica put it, if China is going to overtake the West, it had better get used to eating the Western way. But there is one problem. Beijing-based Filipino journalist Jimmy FlorCruz, who has transferred from heading the Time Beijing bureau to being the CNN bureau chief here, points out that the shift from the traditional home fare of porridge and boiled vegetables to junk food from the West is causing a lot of juvenile obesity. So now there are weight-loss summer camps for youngsters.

* * *

How Beijing has changed! Back in 1980 our Filipino delegation, led by Louie Reyes of the Vera-Reyes Press, was billeted in a state guest house that dated from perhaps the turn of the century, with spartan accommodations more suited for monks. We used the *kulambo* over our beds at night as the windows were not screened, and hot water was provided in the Chinese tin thermos familiar to Filipinos.

This time we were billeted in a year-old, five-star hotel, the State Guest Hotel, which is privately owned. It has a scenic elevator looking out on a gleaming lobby bar decorated with giant palm trees and looking every inch like a hotel in the Middle East. Handsome office buildings for the multinationals and ultra-modern apartment buildings for expatriates have sprouted all over Beijing.

Back in 1980, the only nightclubs were the lobbies of the small hotels, and people danced to the tune of "Jingle Bells." We shopped at the quaint, dingy-looking "Friendship Store" where the natives went.

Today all over Beijing have sprung all the Western hotel chains, out-dazzling one another, and cafés and bars where some Filipino bands play. The natives troop to the huge shopping malls and department stores where signature items from abroad abound, as well as to the big supermarket chains such as Hong Kong's Park 'n Shop.

We visited one gleaming mall on our way to a dinner hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and it was difficult to believe we were in the heart of socialist China. It looked more like Hong Kong, Taiwan or Bangkok.

All this is an indication of the new prosperity of the people, but the downside is that it has also given rise to innumerable pickpockets, as we were constantly warned by our guide.

* * *

The 10 million bicycles used by the majority of the 13 million Beijingites are still very much around, as are those huge two-compartment diesel buses and electric-cable trams. The subway system is also very much in use. But there are now far more cars of every make, usually manufactured in joint ventures between Chinese and Japanese, European or American corporations. They cause monstrous traffic jams during rush hours, despite the relatively sophisticated skyway system, reminding us of home.

I thought owning cars was limited to the expats, but our Chinese hosts told us that the more affluent Chinese have been eager to buy them too. So the authorities have imposed conditions for ownership in order to limit it. A Chinese citizen has to justify why he's buying a car.

Beijingites are also buying their own flats, encouraged by their government in the hope of easing the housing problem. More and more Chinese are traveling overseas.

The new prosperity of the common Beijingite as well as those of Shanghai down is attributed mainly to the influx of various multinational companies, which pay as much as $600 to $1,000 a month in salary. On the other hand, a government worker makes only about $300 a month, which is a major reason for the corruption in the bureaucracy.

* * *

If Beijing has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 11 years, it is expected to outdo itself in the next seven years, as it prepares to host the 2008 Olympics in its typically focused way. Our guide Jessica related that when the decision of the International Olympic Committee to let Beijing host the Olympics was made known, all of Beijing poured out into the streets to rejoice. People stood on top of cars and danced for joy.

Everyone here is so excited over the Games, and though they will be held seven years from now, the blueprints are already finished, and a site for the Olympic Village in the northern part of the capital is waiting to be developed. Human resource mobilization has started, and learning English has become a patriotic duty, most especially for the cab drivers. If there is anything I envy about the Chinese, it's their focus and ability to pull together as a people.

* * *

It's an auspicious time for the Chinese. Two years ago they celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Chinese Revolution with a grand spectacle. Massive public construction projects were undertaken to beautify Beijing. Soon they will join the WTO. Last month, the Chinese men's soccer team made it to the World Cup finals next year, jointly hosted by Japan and South Korea. Also last month, China successfully hosted the Apec meeting of 23 nations in Shanghai.

Hamburgers, sardines and the new media

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AN OLD man, obviously in his dotage, is joined by his teenage granddaughter Karen who brings him his hamburger and drink. "Thank you, Gina," the old man says. She corrects him: "Karen, *po*," making a face that tells us that this is not the first time her grandfather has mistaken her for someone else. Then the old man starts cutting his hamburger in half. "This," he says, wrapping half of the sandwich, "is for my favorite grandchild Karen."

The girl looks back at him, startled, then starts eating her hamburger as her features soften in fondness and understanding of her grandfather.

McDonald's scores with this short and touching vignette of the ties that bind the generations in the Filipino family. It manages to say so much about Filipino family values, marked by service and loyalty, as much as by mutual fondness and shared memories. It even creates awareness about the status of older people, and how even when their mental faculties deteriorate, they still deserve respect and understanding. All this in 30 seconds.

On the other hand, there's this ad about a new brand of sardines. Cesar Montano, perhaps the highest-paid action star these days, enters a dockside eatery and is enticed by the proprietor, telling him, "There's something new I want to show you." His eyes light up in lascivious glee as a sexy young woman comes into view. "It's fresh, juicy, fleshy," says the proprietor, as Montano's eyes wander about the young woman's body. Then the object of his lust slams a can of sardines on the table, the "something new" they were talking about, though you wouldn't know it from the previous scenes.

When I first saw the ad, it left the flavor of slimy sardines in my mouth. Perhaps it was the fact that I'd just completed the manuscript for a book on the stories of women who'd been victimized by traffickers, including one woman's tale of being an *akyat barko* or ship climber in Batangas. Pardon me, but I didn't find it funny having a woman stand in for a can of sardines, or advertisers playing up to men's carnal consumerism for an easy sell. Too many lives have been destroyed because of such gratuitous pandering.

* * *

THESE two examples of current advertising came to mind while I was listening to Emily Abrera, chair of McCann Erickson, the largest advertising agency in the country, talk on "Transformative Leadership in the Media" during yesterday's plenary of the Asia-Pacific Conference on the Media and Transformative Leadership.

In her talk, Emily set forth three simple steps that media practitioners could adopt to transform the present culture within media, which could in turn result in transforming the social environment in which the media operate. As Emily put it, following the "uncertainty principle" first applied to science, "one can never really determine a culture with any exactness; by studying it you change its nature."

"By simply reporting the news, do the media create it?" Emily asked. "Do the media influence the flow and scale of events by the timing of news and the selection of events?"

By way of example, Emily cited the World Trade Center disaster and the incessant replaying of the video footage of the second plane slamming into one tower while the other one was already up in smoke. While the initial airing had a powerful emotional impact on the audience, the airing of footage ad nauseam tended to blunt the import of the scene. "It reached a point when the image was even used as a backdrop for the credits of a news show," Emily observed.

Was it the horrific nature of the Sept. 11 events that created the obsessive coverage? Or was it the obsessive coverage that heightened the perceived horror of the events?

* * *

THE RELATIONSHIP between the media and the audience has shifted over time, said Emily. The young audience has broken free of the stranglehold of the traditional (print, broadcast, film, advertising) media on them. For information and entertainment, they can now turn to other sources, especially the Internet, cell phones and even their own music discs. At the same time, "lines have blurred," with the media feeding off the culture and vice-versa.

How to restore and revitalize the dynamic relationship between consumers of media, and creators of content?

First, said Emily, it is necessary to "break the code of the 'new media.'" Today's young people, she noted, were weaned on "a diet of iconography, symbols and visuals." For the media to nurture a relatiopship with the new generation of consumers, they must "employ the power of visuals, use a fresh language and a new set of aesthetics."

Second, the media must "reinvigorate the intellect of media consumers," and they can do this by "provoking dialogue and discourse," and resist labeling the generations given "the diversity of interests and personalities" around us. Emily also urged the industry to "resist stereotypes and shun the sensational."

Third, the media must "replenish the faith." Is it too much to expect the media to "seek out the ennobling" in human experience? Emily asked. And following the "uncertainty principle," could it not be possible that in "recognizing the positive aspects, that is, reporting the good that is happening along with the bad, you somehow create this good you are looking for?"

* * *

DURING the open forum, when participants asked about the various offensive messages and images that can still be found in the media, especially in advertising, Emily had to concede that while changes have taken place, they have done so slowly and not without resistance. "Advertising agencies have changed at a faster clip than have our clients, who have the money," she remarked.

So, who to credit for that touching and "transformative" McDonald's ad? And who to slam for the backsliding sardine ad? And which ad will sell more hamburgers or sardines?

What the war wrought

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FAITHFUL parishioners donated many of the religious statuary, the clothes and jewelry of these images, which is why when ecclesiastical art from churches finds its way into antique shops or dealer's hands, it is the country's heritage that is being sold. The residents of Sta. Cruz donated the image of San Estanislao carrying the Child Jesus with hands and face of ivory. Don Jose Midel donated life-size statues of the Virgin, the Child Jesus with face and hands of ivory and San Jose used during the Pascua de Navidad.

The parish priest and various devotees of Sta. Cruz paid for the wooden organ with two keyboards of 56 notes and 9 *registros*. Two sets of silver *sacras* (tablets or plaques on an altar containing prayers for certain parts of the Mass such as the Consecration or the prayers for the washing of the hands) were a gift from Doña Filomena Reyes de Alonso.

An incredible amount of objects dear to an antique dealer and a collector's heart existed: baptism fonts of marble, furniture of *tindalo molave* and *narra*, 30 crystal chandeliers of varying sizes, all sorts of silver candelabras one of which could hold 17 candles, and two large marble-topped tables valued at P200!

In 1934 another inventory was taken. Certain notations on the margin are interesting. For instance, a chapel of stone with the galvanized iron roof apparently paid for by the residents of Pulo had been sold. The wooden wheel with the 17 bells used during sung Masses could no longer be found. Most of the jewelry carry a notation that reads "not lost," but apparently were no longer kept in the church premises although the inventory-taker says that he hasn't seen a silver- and gold-plated *viril* noted in an earlier inventory (a glass pair enclosing the Blessed Sacrament fitted into a monstrance).

There were objects in the inventory that had been sent to other parishes like a gold-plated silver chalice that was sent to the parish church of Maricaban, Rizal, on orders of Archbishop Harty in 1912. Earlier in 1899 Archbishop Nozaleda ordered a portable *viaticum* (container for Holy Communion given to sick persons in danger of dying) which was sent to the church of San Fernando de Dilao (Paco). Out of 60 candleholders of white metal in varying sizes, 17 were sent to Pateros in 1900.

The inventory of 1941 notes that a tall cross with the image of the crucified Christ on one side and that of Our Lady of the Pillar on the other side, with a pair of gold-plated silver candlesticks on posts, had been stolen on the eve of the establishment of the Commonwealth. The thieves also stole two crowns belonging to Our Lady and the Divine Child, with 14 fake stones and a globe and sandals of 18-carat gold. Of two sets of *sacras* donated by Doña Filomena Reyes de Alonso only one set remained. A pair of earrings rose-formed *diamantes* made up of 259 stones was no longer there. It is not clear whether the earrings were lost, stolen, sold or transferred some place.

On Dec. 1, 1940 the Yatco family heirs of Doña Jacoba Cruz donated a *primera clase* large carpet for the main altar. Six armchairs of *narra de forma artistica* were either purchased or donated.

A year and seven days later, the war came. A later notation saying "*quemado*" (burnt) is written on the margin beside almost all the objects: a silver frontal, the images of Our Lord in the baptistry together with the oil painting of John the Baptist; an image of St. John on the altar of the Crucified Christ; a statue of the Crucified Christ in the lateral altar; an image of St Anthony of Padua with face and hands of ivory; two images of the sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary with face and hands of ivory; a dozen clothes for the two images of velvet, silk and taffeta; an urn of crystal and wood, the pedestal of the metal standard; a small image of Our Lady of the Pillar of wood with face and hands of ivory beside the marble font for holy water; a life-size statue of the Resurrected Christ; 66 crystal cylindrical vases used to enshrine images or to protect lit candles; 9 crystal chandeliers with 16 globe lights, two of which were in the presbytery, and one hanging from the arch in the ceiling and five along the principal nave of the church. All gone.

All the altars were destroyed together, with the pulpit, the benches and pews, the furniture in the convent. The date was Feb. 5, 1945.

Some objects were saved. The life-size images of the Virgin, the Child and St. Joseph that were used at Christmas were kept by Mercedes Santos who lived on P. Guevara Street, but the Señor Sepulcro kept in the altar the De los Dolores and an image of St. Joseph with the Child Jesus sent to the house of a parishioner at Calero Street was burned on Feb. 5. The big crucifix in the main altar was "O.K. at Guzman's house." The image of La Purissima Concepcion with face and hands of ivory sent to another parishioner's house on Mabolo Street was burned with the house.

No longer within the church premises are the parish records of baptisms (43 books) dating from May 22, 1768 (the date of the expulsion of the Jesuits), of marriages (11 books) and interments also dating from the 18th century noted as "not lost" that were once kept in an armoire of *narra*, 7 feet tall and 5 feet wide with double doors together with other archival records. These could have been sent to the archbishopric and happily survived the conflagration.

Scared

YOUNGBLOOD

Bituin Santiago-Jacinto

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I NEVER felt unsafe until I lost something valuable to a thief. I was in college when my wallet was stolen in the ladies' room of the university I was studying in. I never expected it to happen in an elite school where most of the students belong to the privileged class. I was under the impression that my school was safe and secure.

Of course, I had heard so much about (and even witnessed) several snatching incidents, robberies and the like, but it's different when I became a victim myself.

I'm not sure if it was me or the crooks out there, but some time during my college years, my necklace was snatched while I was in a jeepney. Not so long ago, I was at a mall when my wallet was stolen. A year later, while I was seated in a restaurant, a lady suddenly took off with my wallet. Fortunately, I was able to catch her.

Maybe I was not really careful enough, and so were the others who became victims of various crimes. But can one actually avoid such mischief? Is there still a safe place to go?

Judging from personal experiences, the events we have witnessed, the countless stories we've heard from other people, the articles we've read on the papers and the news on TV, I guess we have no choice but to accept the harsh realities of life. I am lucky that nothing worse than losing wallets and a piece of jewelry has happened to me or to anyone in my family. Other families have had a member kidnapped, raped, murdered, bombed or trapped in a fire. But still I am afraid because no one really knows what will happen next. With terrorists succeeding even in the most progressive and powerful country, where else can people go for safety?

Even our own homes are no longer safe. A friend of mine went out of her bedroom one early morning to get a cup of coffee. When she came back, her bag was gone. She was about to leave for Davao that day and her plane ticket, allowance and newly bought expensive cosmetics were in that bag.

How did it happen? Simple: thd window was open. But then who would have thought that a thief was just outside the window at 5 in the morning? Besides, her two sisters were in the same room, asleep. The thief must have been an expert, unafraid that one of the girls might suddenly wake up and catch him.

After the series of crimes happening in the country and the tragic events in New York and Washington, I'm beginning to get paranoid. I get uneasy every time I see suspicious characters and notice unusual behaviors, unattended bags and packages and, yes, when I hear planes flying overhead. Every time my husband leaves for work, I pray that nothing bad happens to him. I don't feel relieved until I'm sure that he has safely reached the office, and until he is back home.

When I was younger, I could see a movie alone and go to any part of Manila by public transport without any companion. Now, I'm scared.

What has happened? Where are the people who are supposed to help and protect us? We don't even know now who are our friends and enemies.

As I watch TV and read the papers, I feel more depressed and discouraged to go out. I might want to go to the supermarket, but I think it would be better if I just waited for my husband to accompany me. What if a bomb suddenly exploded in the area? Even my husband gets worried sometimes that my bag might be snatched, that someone might grab my cell phone and if I tried to fight the snatcher, he would stab me to death like what happened to a couple of young people a few weeks back.

Although most establishments have imposed stricter security measures, I have observed some that are still lax. One time as I was about to enter a mall, I opened my bag for the routine inspection and the guard did not even bother to look at it. He just nodded and allowed me to get in. On another occasion, due to the heavy flow of shoppers going inside the mall, the guard didn't notice one man with a backpack passing through. I hope the guards will be more thorough and not judge a person by his physical appearance. Even a decent-looking man can be dangerous.

I am truly scared not only for our own lives but most especially for our future children. I wish somebody will tell us exactly what to do to stop these horrible things from happening. If this is a nightmare, I wish we will all wake up from it.

Bituin Santiago-Jacinto, 27, graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University with a degree in social sciences.

Driving games

Kaye Cuevas

DRIVING in the Philippines has become a heart-stopping and nerve-racking experience. Most foreigners will probably be forever traumatized if they dared to challenge a Filipino driver. For where else can you find a three-lane road miraculously transformed into a five-lane highway? Or slow-moving vehicles on both the slow and fast lanes with scores of other vehicles following behind? Above all, where else will you find a driver who can text, smoke and gossip with the passengers all at the same time?

The amazing talents of Filipino drivers are not limited to these. You will find it very exciting to know some of the games Filipino drivers play on the highway.

First, there is the Truth or Dare Game. If you are suicidal and curious to find out whether the driver in front of you will step on his brakes or not as your try to pass him on a two-lane road, this is the game for you. You will know the truth when you are only 20 meters away from colliding with the on-coming truck. The dare comes in the form of who would step on the brakes—you or the other driver. Screams and curses are usually required from the passengers to make this game more exciting. If neither of you steps on the brakes, oh well…

Second is the Matira ang Matibay Game. This usually happens when there is heavy traffic on a three or four-lane highway. Vehicles will cut into another lane whenever their drivers notice that the cars on your lane are moving while those on their lane are not. To join the game, you have to swerve your vehicle to the other lane before the other driver realizes your intention. But some drivers aren't so patient. They would rather rear-end the car in front than let you cut into his lane. Of course, you cannot be too polite. The game is precisely intended to find out who will yield—you or the other driver. Luxury cars always lose this game. Battered vehicles and public utility vehicles normally win this one. But if your opponent is driving a truck or bus—well, they are not kings of the road for nothing.

Third is the Follow-the-Leader Game. Sometimes, you will hear a siren from behind and realize that an ambulance is coming. Many drivers will give way and let the ambulance pass, but others are sick in the head: they don't care if the patient in the ambulance is dying. However, when you see an ambulance passing, expect other vehicles to follow it. Your reflexes have to be quick to take part in this game. If not, sorry, you'll just be stuck in the slow-moving traffic.

Next is the Patintero Game. When a vehicle ahead is crawling, other vehicles will of course try to overtake it. But in this game, you wonder if the slow-moving driver is trying to get your goat or his vehicle has a mind of its own. When you try to pass him, you realize that he is going in the same direction at the same speed as you. The thing to do is overtake him quickly, then step on the brakes and do exactly what he did. As they say, two can play the game.

Finally there is the Snakes and Ladders Game. This usually happens on the expressway. If you're not happy with the pace of the vehicles in your lane, switch to another other lane. If that is still too slow, switch again—and again. However, there will be times when you realize that you cannot switch lanes anymore. The game comes full circle when you see the vehicles you have passed now passing you.

But like the players of any game, there will be a time for you to retire from these driving games. This usually happens after a tire-burning and metal-crunching accident. But if you decide to resume play after a traumatic experience, well, good luck and may other drivers have mercy on you.

Kaye Cuevas, 21, is a graduate of the University of the Philippines, Los Baños.

Clearing Central Mindanao of land mines

THIS has reference to your news item "Land mines scourge of Mindanao folk." (PDI, 10/31/01, p.13) which said that the human rights group Balay Inc. in Central Mindanao that is helping in the rehabilitation of war refugees is asking the government to clear of land mines the war-affected villages there.

The Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL) wishes to commend Balay Inc. for its rehabilitation efforts, particularly its related investigation last October of recent land mine accidents in Barangay Tiba and other villages of Matanog, Maguindanao, including identification of five farmer victims. The PCBL offers to join hands with Balay Inc. and other humanitarian NGOs in addressing the land mine problem in Central Mindanao by way of a land mine ban, mine clearance and victim assistance.

It will be noted that the news report said that the land mines were believed to have been planted by retreating Moro rebels at the height of the Estrada administration's all-out war last year against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Such land mines cannot be effectively located and disposed by the Armed Forces of the Philippines' explosive and ordinance disposal units without the cooperation of the MILF. Thus, the PCBL submitted last September to the peace negotiating panels of the government and the MILF a "Working Paper for GRP-MILF Joint Mine Clearance as a Measure for Rehabilitation and Confidence Building."

Unless a major clearance of land mines, and for that matter unexploded ordnance and shrapnel from the AFP ordnance, is done in those areas, the situation which slows down or prevents rehabilitation and the safe return of evacuees and displaced persons remains the same. This will defeat the purpose of the current peace process which intends rehabilitation to go hand in hand with peace negotiations.

The PCBL, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to enjoin the GRP and MILF peace panels to immediately put in place the new mechanisms for the effective implementation of their old Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities.—**SOLIMAN M. SANTOS JR., co-coordinator, Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines, 18 Mariposa St., Cubao, Quezon City**

Where has abundant water gone?

THE MANILA Water Co. has been fooling our community all along. The letter of Manila Water's Joel Lacsamana last Nov. 2 confirmed our suspicions: that Manila Water has "delivered more water to more households," but we add that this was done through water rationing!

The majority in our community used to have abundant water 24 hours a day, prior to Manila Water's takeover from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. Four years ago, the El Niño weather phenomenon came and we were forced by Manila Water to have water rationing (theoretically 36 to 48 hours a week, which now actually averages only less than 30 hours a week). Our community grudgingly accepted this, as we were up against the forces of nature. Manila Water explained that this was just temporary and it would revert to the previous supply situation when the drought ended.

La Niña came and there was water and floods all over, but Manila Water told us that the total available water production was not enough to bring back our 24-hour supply. We were promised that our misery would end in March 2001 as it was putting up a big pipe to supply our community (as if the old pipes supplying us had shrunk). Now, Manila Water is embarking on providing the Antipolo subdivisions with water and it has not even addressed our four-year-old misery!

As a child, I learned that alligators shed tears when they eat their prey. But I learned too that those teardrops were not out of sympathy but a natural reaction when they open their jaws wide. Manila Water cannot claim that that it is in the business for public service as its moves are restrained by profit considerations. It is cheaper for Manila Water to fool us rather than bring back our continuous supply since it can "deliver more water to more households" with the 120-132 hours a week that Manila Water removed from our community.

When Manila Water won the bid to handle the East Zone almost five years ago, we rejoiced at the low rates it proposed. However, we did not get to enjoy Manila Water's "low rates" because aside from the resultant discomfort of water rationing, we have to buy from water sellers to augment our supply and these water sellers charge exorbitant rates (or maybe we are still lucky that we don't buy all our water needs from them as the bigger volume is supplied by Manila Water). Despite the absence of an automatic adjustment related to foreign exchange losses, the government was kind enough to recognize that Manila Water needed the rate adjustment so that it would survive. Now who will solve our predicament and force Manila Water to bring the situation back to its former state of abundant and continuous water supply? Do alligators pity their victims?—**MICHAEL M. YU, chair, Industrial Valley Homeowners Association Inc. (Representing Five IVS Areas), Osmeña Street, Industrial Valley Subdivision, Marikina City**

Captain also killed in Pantabangan encounter

THIS has reference to the editorial titled "Unusual wounds" last Nov. 5, 2001.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines understands well the grievances being felt by some concerned cause-oriented groups and, of course, the family of those who were killed on that fateful Oct. 8 encounter in Sitio Tuli, Barangay Conversion, Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

We know how it feels to lose someone because during that legitimate encounter, not only five dissidents or members of the NPA were the victims, but also our gallant mistah, Capt. Rogelio Eligino, who also died in that firefight. Sgt. Melchor Rivera was wounded. Both of them were hit by M203 shrapnel.

Certain sectors, specifically the United Methodist Church and the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, are saying that what happened was a "massacre" of civilians allegedly perpetrated by the 541B, 5ID, PA. They are questioning the legitimacy of the encounter, but are the death of Eligino and the wounding of Rivera not enough to prove that there was indeed a legitimate encounter? And how about the recovery of subversive documents and arms (one 30 LMG, three M16 rifles and assorted ammunition)? The recovered documents show that those killed during that encounter were indeed members of the NPA, specifically under the Nueva Ecija Party Committee led by Ka Arnold.

The death of Eligino is not only a loss to his family but also to the entire AFP. This death needs justice too! No awards given to him for gallantry in action can soothe the pain we feel. But why has no one from the so-called human rights advocates come forward to condemn the killing of this military officer? Is it because he is a military man and soldiers have no entitled human rights?

With regard to the unusual wounds that were being drummed up by these groups, these were normal wounds suffered by those who die in combat. Even soldiers who die in the field have similar wounds. The harsh environment sometimes inflicts these kinds of wounds during combat maneuvers—sharp rock edges, sharp pointed tree branches, thorny vines and grasses with sharp blades.

Charges made by these cause-oriented groups serve merely to vilify and malign the military in furtherance of their agenda. Or else they just want to agitate people and at the same time portray once again that your AFP is back to its dark deeds in order to hasten its underground recruitment.

At any rate, the AFP will surely welcome any investigation regarding the incident. The AFP has not wavered in its mission as our people's defender, protector and agent of peace.

Please let us not forget that Capt. Rogelio Eligino offered his life for our country. Let us not put his sacrifice in vain.—**CAPT. EUGENIO JULIO C. OSIAS, IV PA, Public Information Office, Armed Forces of the Philippines**

Negative stories and sloppy grammar

I SHARE writer Bibeth Orteza's dream of having children read newspapers (PDI, 10/13/01, P.23,) provided their editors are serious about enforcing high professional standards as their readers deserve.

It is counterproductive, for one, to expose the young to mostly negative reports and opinions about our motherland, contributing to the growing feeling of hopelessness among Filipinos, and to the lack of pride and love for our native land. Unfortunately, the INQUIRER's editors defend this policy by saying, "We just print the news, we don't make it."

The editors forget that it is they who choose what events to print, how much prominence and what slant to give them. They seem to be quick in reporting, for instance, that our coffers are half-empty (instead of half-full).

It is a consolation that the editors designate Sundays as a respite from the torrent of depressing reportage. However, I believe the paper can go farther. I believe circulation need not suffer even if the INQUIRER tries to balance the negative with the positive, as a matter of policy.

Second, while we pride ourselves as an English-speaking nation and this has served our economy in good stead, the quality of our English is rapidly deteriorating. The media have contributed immensely to this. Their wrong usage is swiftly disseminated, copied and repeated.

Six months ago, I complained to your readers' advocate about the sloppy grammar in your daily but I have not received any positive reaction to my letter.—**LT. COL. ROY NICOLAS, MNSA, greatangcor@edsamail.com.ph**

WE *will try to publish more positive news stories, and not just on Sundays, but whenever possible, on weekdays. As for your second point, we are taking steps to improve the grammar and language of reporters and deskpersons. Antonio Hidalgo, a writer, is doing a weekly monitor of the grammatical errors committed in these sections of the paper. In his report he notes the errors and states what the correct forms, words or sentences should be.*

We hold workshops on grammar and writing for reporters and deskpersons from time to time. Early next year we will conduct a two-month English refresher course for reporters and editors. Please be assured that we are taking steps to improve our grammar.—**The Editor**

Village bars entry of commuters

WE do not understand the reason why the officials of the Multinational Village Homeowners Association (MVHAI) prohibit passersby and commuters from entering the village and require residents to secure ID cards for passage. Are they afraid of terrorist attacks or do they just want to show that being a rich residential area, the poor ordinary citizen living adjacent to them should be excluded from their domain?

The Multinational Village is surrounded by three other villages namely, Betterliving Subdivision, Moonwalk Subdivision and Merville Subdivision. It happens to be the shortest route going to Sucat Road and Imelda Avenue, hence to Baclaran, Pasay and Manila. If we take the alternate route, it will take us hours to reach our destination due to the heavy traffic on the circuitous route we have to travel.

Is this another scheme to collect more funds? First, they charge an exorbitant fee of P600 to P1,200 annually for a sticker pass and even included the alternate access road (Kaingin Road) which has a bridge built through the initiative of then Rep. Roilo Golez and developed during the administration of former Mayor Pablo Olivarez and now Mayor Joey Marquez.

All villages allow passersby and commuters access and passage to their place. Is the MVHAI setting a precedent? BF Homes in Parañaque tried it once but it was not successful. Will the MVHAI succeed in the plan to have a separate institution outside the administration of Parañaque City?

Finally, what will happen to the business establishments operating within the subdivision, which paid the MVHAI clearances? Can they survive without outside patronage?

We hope the officials concerned will act on this matter before any untoward incident happens.—**WILFREDO T. MARTIN, Sta. Ana-1, San Agustin Village, Moonwalk Parañaque City**

PANALANGING BAYAN

O Panginoong Diyos na pinakamakapangyarihan, mahabagin at mapagbiyaya sa lahat, narito po kami, ang buong sambayananng Pilipino, sumasamba at humihingi ng kapatawaran sa lahat ng mga kasalanan namin sa Inyo, sa bayan at sa kapwa.

Linisin Ninyo ang mga puso namin at ibalik ang aming loob sa Inyo, upang muli naming maranasan and Inyong katarungan at kabanalan. Imulat Ninyo kami sa Inyong kabutihan sa gitna ng mga pagsubok na kinahaharap ng bansa.

Pagbuklurin Ninyo ang lahat ng Pilipino sa layuning maghahatid ng kapayapaan at katarungan sa lahat.

Pangalagaan Ninyo kami at pagtibayin ang aming loob na harapin ang mga kalamidad at labanan ang terorismo at krimen.

Nawa'y maging tunay na alagad ang aming pamahalaan ng malinis, tapat at mahusay na pangangasiwa, mula sa Pangulo hanggang sa kawani ng pinakamunting barangay.

Umangat nawa ang kabuhayan ng buong bansa, at ang asal at ugali sa lipunan.

Gabayan Ninyo ang mga lumilikha ng palabas at pahayag para sa madla. Imulat Ninyo ang kabataan upang lumaking may pananagutan at pagmamahal sa Inyo at sa bayan.

Iadya po sa ligalig ang mga kababayang naghahanapbuhay sa ibayong dagat. Patnubayan ninyo ang mga mag-anak nila at lahat ng pamilyang Pilipino.

Bigyan po Ninyo ng tunay na pag-unawa at pagmamahal sa isa't-isa ang iba't-ibang mananampalataya na tumitingala sa Maykapal.

Nagpapasalamat kami at nagpupuri sa Inyong pag-ibig, katapatan at kabaitan sa amin. Buong pananalig naming inaangkin ang kalooban Ninyo para sa aming buhay bilang bansang nagkakaisa - ang malaya, maunlad at marangal na sambayanang Pilipino.

Idinadalangin namin ito sa Inyong na nabubuhay na walang pasimula at naghahari magpasawalang hanggan.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING

November 10, 2001
Quirino Gandstand, Rizal Park (Luneta)

P R O G R A M M E

I. ENTRY OF COLORS

II. NATIONAL ANTHEM — Combined Singers of different Churches/ Faiths

III. CALL TO SILENCE/ SOUNDING OF TAMBULI

IV. INTERFAITH INVOCATION
1. Catholic Church
2. Jesus Is Lord
3. Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches
4. National Council of Churches of the Philippines
5. Jesus Miracle Crusade
6. 7th Day Adventist
7. Muslim Brothers
8. Indigenous Group
9. Bahai Faith

V. Intermission – Song Number

VI. PRAYER FOR NATIONAL REPENTANCE — **HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR**, *Senate President Pro Tempore*

VII. PRAYER FOR NATIONAL UNITY — **HON. JOSE C. DE VENECIA**, *Speaker, House of Representatives*

VIII. PRAYER FOR RETURN TO HOLINESS OF THE NATION — **HON. HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.**, *Chief Justice, Supreme Court*

IX. PRAYERS TO LIFT UP NATIONAL INTENTIONS
1. Peace and Justice
2. Healing the Wounds of the Poor
3. Security Against Terrorism
4. Against Calamities
5. Against Drugs and Crime

X. Intermission – Song Number by DULCE "Pinakamamahal Kong Bayan"
6. Moral Recovery
7. Economic Recovery
8. Protection of OFWs
9. Youth – Vision, Love of Country, Taking Responsibility
10. Building Up of Families

XI. Intermission – Song Number by CRIS VILLONGCO
11. Renewal of Media
12. Leaders – Wisdom, Integrity, Unity of Purpose, Serve as Good Examples
13. Political Renewal
14. Universal Solidarity of Faiths

XII. Intermission – Song Number by Ms. JAMIE RIVERA "Heal Our Land"

XIII. THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO ACTION

XIV. READING OF THE SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

XV. PANALANGING BAYAN — To be led by **HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**, President of the Republic of the Philippines

XVI. COMMUNITY SINGING — "Bayan Ko" to be led by El Shaddai (JOJO INGAN)

PMS Secretary VICKY P. GARCHITORENA **DILG Secretary JOEY D. LINA, JR.**
Masters of Ceremonies

SITUATION. The National Day of Prayer & Fasting for Reconciliation shall take place on Saturday, 10 November 2001, 4:00-6:00 pm. Participants are expected to arrive by 12 nn. The El Shaddai, the Iglesia Ni Kristo, Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, MARADEKA and other religious groups are expected to attend. Traffic congestion is expected within the immediate vicinity due to the sheer number of the crowd. Further congestion is expected in the peripheral areas.

ROAD CLOSURES.
Roxas Boulevard/ Bonifacio Drive between Pedro Gil and Anda.
T.M Kalaw between Roxas Boulevard and Taft Avenue
P.Burgos between Roxas Boulevard and M. Orosa

PARKING AREAS.
South Boulevard, both sides
Katigbak, both sides
Roxas Boulevard/Bonifacio Drive, both sides between P. Gil and Anda Circle
Roxas Boulevard one-lane at T.M. Kalaw, both sides
CCP complex for buses and heavy passenger vehicles from the South
Lawton for buses and other heavy passenger vehicles coming from the North

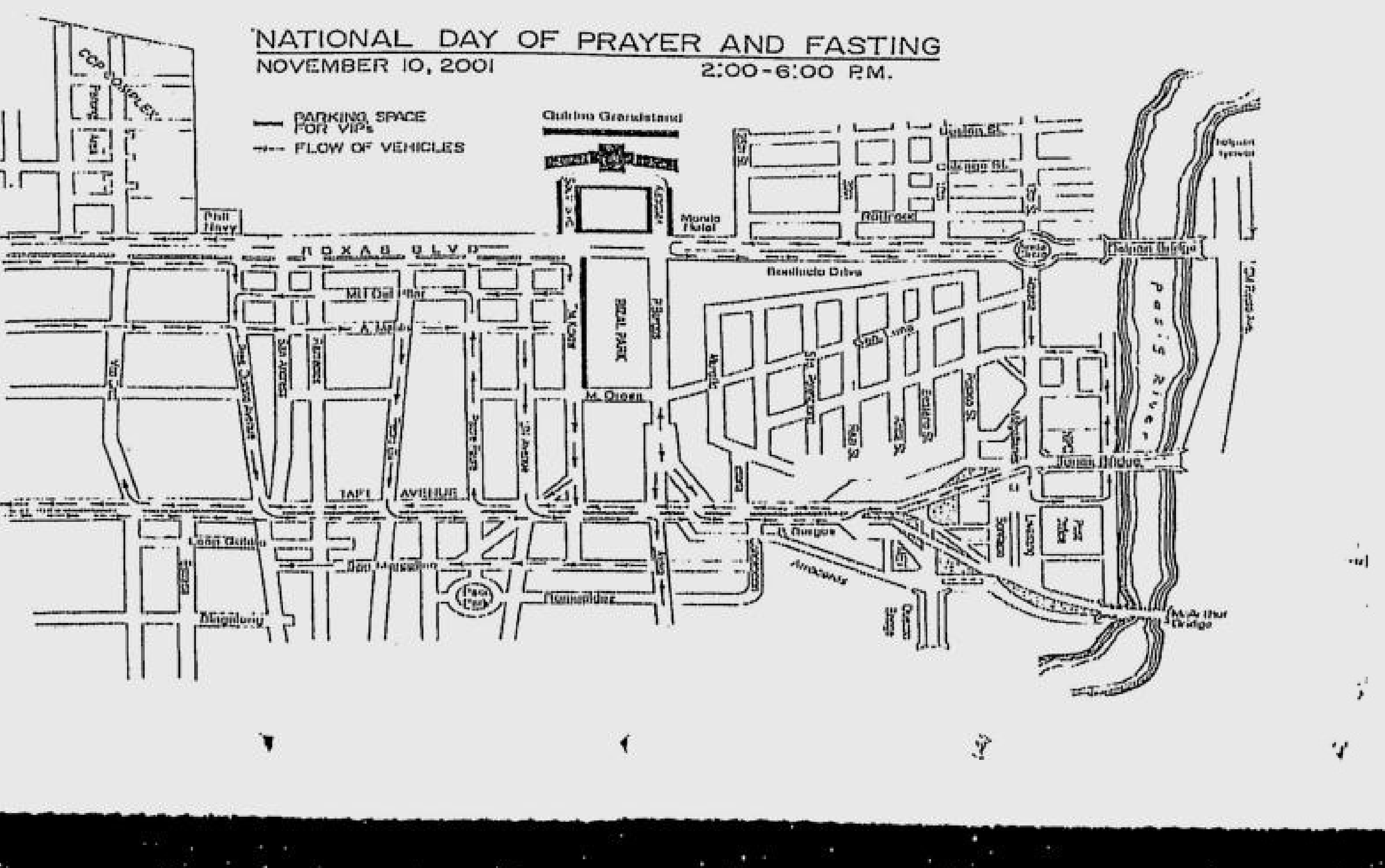
RE-ROUTING SCHEMES.

Heavy vehicles coming from Pier to take Bonifacio Drive and use C.M. Recto or R-10 to destination

Heavy vehicles going to Pier may take Pres. Quirino – Nagtahan – A. Lacson – Tayuman and exit at R-10 to destination

Vehicles going South from Pier may use Aduana thru Magallanes and Taft Avenue to destination

Vehicles from South along Roxas Boulevard to be diverted to Pedro Gil towards Taft Avenue and destination



REUTERS

A NORTHERN Alliance soldier stands guard on a position at Ali Khanum hill near Deshitiqala in northern Afghanistan Nov. 8. Northern Alliance forces are on the verge of taking the strategic town of Mazar-i-Sharif, which straddles supply routes to Kabul.

Bin Laden cell planned hijack, crash of SIA plane, report says

KATMANDU—Nepal imposed strict security around Katmandu international airport Friday after receiving information that a cell linked to Osama bin Laden was planning to hijack a Singaporean airliner and crash it into New Delhi, officials said.

Police in the southern Indian city of Madras told Nepalese authorities they had received a threat that a Bin Laden cell was planning to hijack a Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight out of Katmandu and crash it into the Indian capital, said Jaya Diwan, general secretary of Nepal's foreign airline operators' association.

He said the likely target in New Delhi would be the residence either of Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee or US Ambassador Robert Blackwill, or the US Embassy.

"We are taking precautionary measures so that this kind of ugly thing does not happen," Diwan said.

He said Nepal had received all its information about the plot from India, leading some officials to be cautious about the threat.

He said there was "no need to be panicky" as no airlines in Nepal had received the threat.

"It could be a hoax, although it is wise to be alert," said Bishnu Subedi, executive secretary of the foreign carriers' association.

According to the information from Madras, passed on by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, men from Bin Laden's al-Qaida network were already in Katmandu preparing for the suicide hijacking, Subedi said.

All passengers entering Katmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport were being thoroughly checked, officials said. Senior political, Police and Army officials who are generally exempt from airport security checks were also being searched.

Officials said that although the threat was directed against SIA, which runs four flights a week from Singapore to Katmandu via Madras, all air carriers in Katmandu were being told to take extra precautions.

Friday's SIA flight from Madras to Katmandu was due to arrive here in the early afternoon.

Bin Laden is accused by the United States of orchestrating the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings that destroyed New York's World Trade Center and part of the Pentagon, killing almost 5,000 people. *AFP*

'Gunfight' reported near Afghan town

JABAL SARAJ, Afghanistan—US jets pounded Taliban targets across northern Afghanistan on Thursday, and fierce fighting was reported around the Taliban-held city of Mazar-e-Sharif, cornerstone of the Islamic militia's control of the strategic north.

The commander of the US-led coalition confirmed a "gunfight" was raging south of Mazar-e-Sharif, although he refused to give details. Taliban and opposition spokespersons spoke of intense fighting, with front lines moving back and forth around a key ridge south of the city.

Opposition spokesperson Ashraf Nadeem said the northern alliance was so confident of victory that commanders have met to discuss how to storm Mazar-e-Sharif without destroying the city.

"We are trying to take the city with the least destruction possible," Nadee, said in a satellite telephone interview said in Tashkent. "The Taliban are scattered and we hope that they will leave Mazar-e-Sharif. We will take Mazar-e-Sharif, maybe tomorrow, maybe in a few days."

Elsewhere, US jets and B-52 bombers repeatedly struck at Taliban targets along the front line about 50 km north of Kabul and around the southern Taliban stronghold of Kandahar.

Huge plumes of smoke billowed from Taliban positions, which did not fire anti-aircraft guns as they have on past bombing runs. It was unclear whether the guns had been knocked out or whether the Taliban were saving their ammunition.

Bismillah Khan, an opposition commander, said US bombing near Kabul overnight had been "very effective," and that two Taliban tanks and an anti-aircraft position were destroyed.

Most front-line Taliban installations have been destroyed and Taliban troops were moving around to evade US bombs, Khan said.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press reported that US warplanes also conducted 27 bombing raids in western Herat province.

President George W. Bush launched the air assault Oct. 7 after the Taliban refused to surrender Osama bin Laden, alleged architect of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that killed 4,500 people in the United States.

In other attacks-related developments:

- Hundreds of Japanese sailors loaded up a small flotilla of warships Thursday and prepared to embark for the Indian Ocean as Japan made good on its unprecedented pledge to support US-led forces in the war against terrorism.
- Pakistan's military ruler President Pervez Musharraf said Thursday in Paris that continuing the US-led bombing campaign through the Muslim holy month of Ramadan will have "a negative fallout in the entire Muslim world." Ramadan begins late next week, and Musharraf plans to raise the issue with President Bush in New York.
- The Afghan Islamic Press reported that the Taliban have arrested 16 Afghans on suspicion of spying for the United States. An unidentified Taliban intelligence official told the agency that the suspects included Abdul Manaf, a former Afghan Army colonel.
- Pakistan ordered the Taliban to close their consulate in Karachi after allegations that its diplomats there were organizing protests and attacks on US installations. *AP*

Allies losing image war, Musharraf says

LONDON—Sounding potentially unwelcome themes in advance of weekend talks with US President George W. Bush, Pakistan's president said Thursday that bombing Afghanistan during Ramadan could alienate Muslims worldwide, and that civilian casualties were fueling perceptions of an unjust war.

After hour-long talks at 10 Downing St. with Blair on a chilly, rain-slicked evening, Musharraf said he supported a "short and targeted" campaign in Afghanistan.

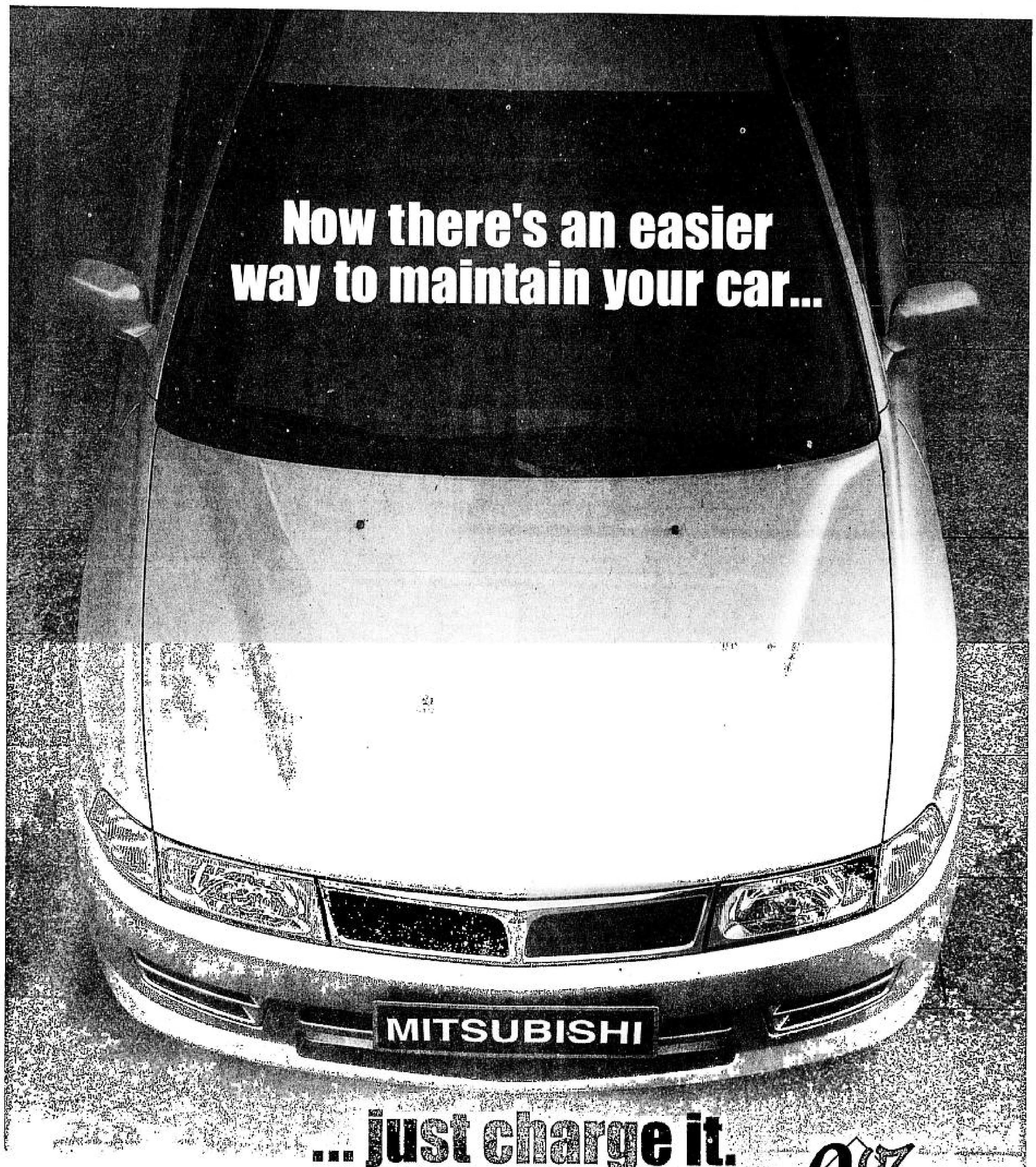
He used precisely the same words earlier in Paris, where he met President Jacques Chirac Wednesday evening and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin on Thursday—reflecting a view he has held since the air strikes' earliest days.

Musharraf and Blair last held talks in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, on Oct. 5, two days before the start of the American-led air assault.

The bombardment targets Bin Laden's fighters and Afghanistan's ruling Taliban, but an undetermined number of civilians have been hurt or killed as well. The Pentagon says it has no casualty estimate, but insists Taliban claims are wildly exaggerated.

Whatever the true numbers, Musharraf warned that powerful scenes of civilian suffering, televised across the globe, were hurting the coalition's image.

"It is being perceived, in the whole world, as if this is a war against the poor, miserable, innocent people of Afghanistan," he told reporters in Paris. *AP*



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THIEVES' TARGET AFP

Undated file picture shows the 203-carat Millennium Star, the largest flawless pear-shaped diamond in the world, part of a display worth £350 million that thieves attempted to steal from the Millennium Dome in London.

Thailand laundering billions in narcotics money, officials say

BANGKOK—Some $2.2 billion in drug money is laundered annually through financial institutions in Thailand, officials said Friday.

Col. Pheerapan Premaputi, secretary general of the Anti-Money Laundering Office, said that according to the United Nations some $600 billion of ill-gotten funds were laundered worldwide and only two percent was seized.

"People do not realize they are supporting money laundering that amounts to $100 a person worldwide and about 100 billion baht of drug money laundered through Thai financial institutions each year," he said.

Pheerapan said his office was collaborating with Thailand's finance ministry to draft a plan that would limit to $10,000 the amount of money brought by individuals in and out of Thailand.

Thai customs officials would have to be notified of amounts greater than that and given an explanation of the money's intended use, he said.

Limits on the amount of Thai currency brought in and out of Thailand are set 50,000 baht and 500,000 baht for individuals travelling to neighboring countries.

In September, officials launched an inquiry into one of Thailand's largest money laundering cases in which millions of dollars were transferred by UOB Radanasin Bank executives to overseas accounts over a period of years. *AFP*

2 Bosnian Serb war crimes suspects arrested in Serbia

BELGRADE—Two Bosnian Serb brothers indicted by a UN tribunal for war crimes committed at an internment camp in Bosnia were arrested Thursday in Serbia, the state news agency Tanjug reported.

Predrag and Nenad Banovic, indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) for crimes committed during the 1992-95 Bosnian war, were arrested at a market in Obrenovac, 30 km southwest of Belgrade, it said, quoting "unofficial sources."

The men, who had been selling vegetables at the market, "were arrested by five armed civilians," Tanjug said, adding that the whereabouts of the pair were currently unknown.

The police were unavailable for comment and no official statement has yet been issued about their arrest.

The Banovic brothers were indicted, along with 11 other men, of holding more than 3,000 Bosnian Muslims and Croats "in inhumane conditions, under armed guard," in the Keraterm camp, a former ceramics factory and storage area complex near Prijedor in the summer of 1992.

The two were guards in the camp and took part in beatings and torture of detainees, prosecutors said.

Beta news agency on Thursday quoted a "well-informed source" as saying that members of the Serbian police had arrested the two brothers.

However, a source could not confirm whether the two had been handed over to the ICTY officials, but added that it was "suspected they have been deported." *AFP*

MOTHER AND CHILD AFP

Mandara, a 19-year-old lowland gorilla at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, holds her fifth offspring in this Nov. 5 photo after the baby's birth at the National Zoo in Washington, DC. The newborn's father is Kuja, an 18-year-old male.

2 boat people drown

SYDNEY—Two women drowned when a boat carrying asylum seekers sank after being deliberately set alight as Australian navymen tried to force it out of territorial waters, officials said Friday.

A naval report said about 160 people including 24 women and 30 children were rescued by Australian vessels after the sinking near Ashmore Reef off the northwest coast on Thursday night.

The report, released by Defense Minister Peter Reith, described scenes of panic as fire exploded on the Indonesian-flagged Sumbar Lestari.

The incident came three weeks after more than 350 illegal immigrants drowned when a heavily overloaded boat sank on its way from Indonesia to Australia.

The latest boatload was detected by the customs vessel, Arnhem Bay, as it approached Australian territorial waters.

The report, by Commodore Warwick Gately, said the boat had ignored warnings after being intercepted by the patrol boat, HMAS Wollongong, 34 nautical miles north of Ashmore Reef.

After ignoring warnings to turn back, those on the vessel began dumping fuel, water and parts of the boat's structure overboard.

A boarding party from the Wollongong, which attempted to board the vessel was obstructed by barricades before the fire was discovered. *AFP*

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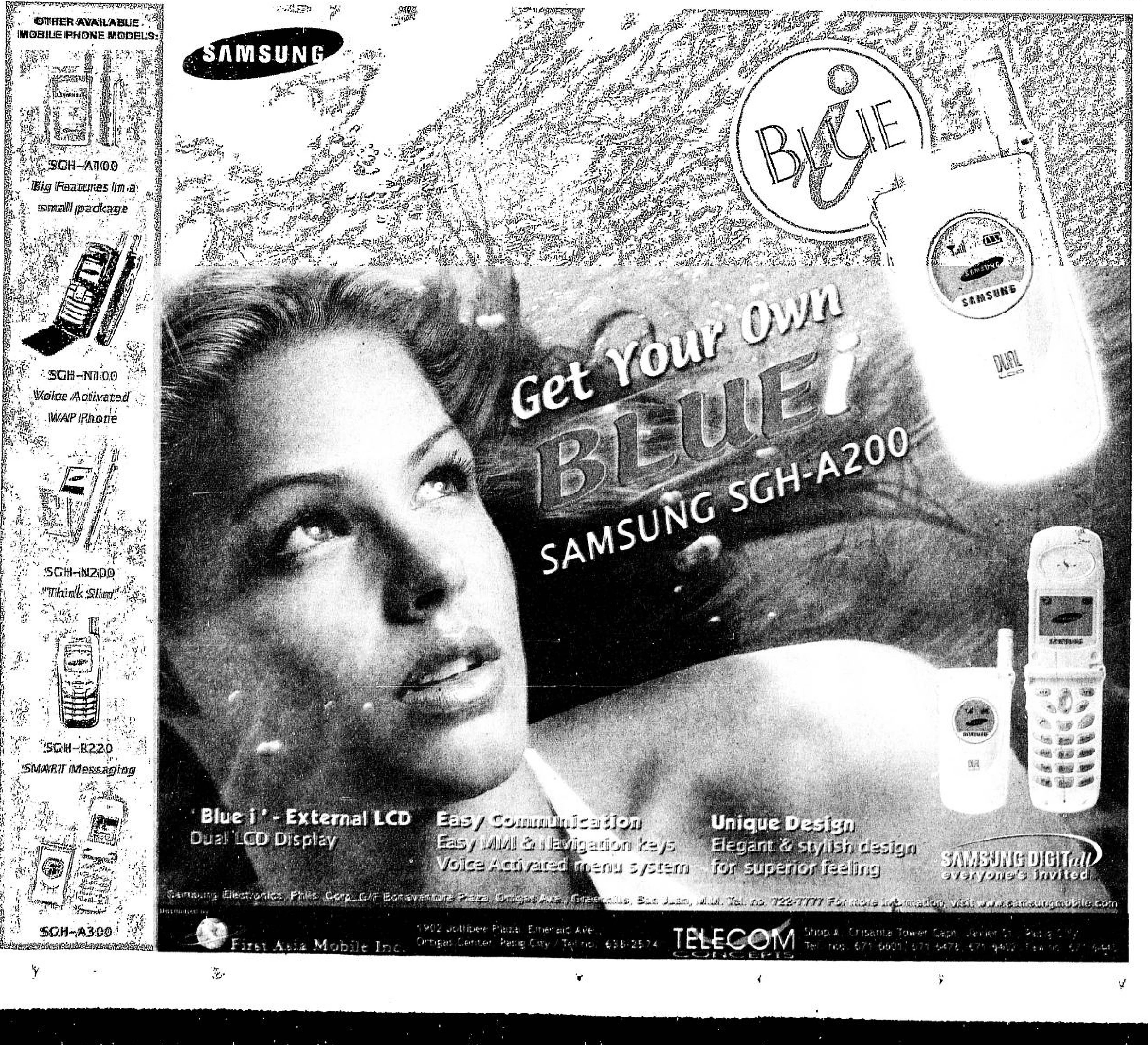

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RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE REUTERS

Visitors enter the exhibition room of the Museum of World Religions, which opened in Taipei Nov. 9. The museum, first of its kind in the world, is dedicated to promoting understanding and tolerance of the world's major religions.

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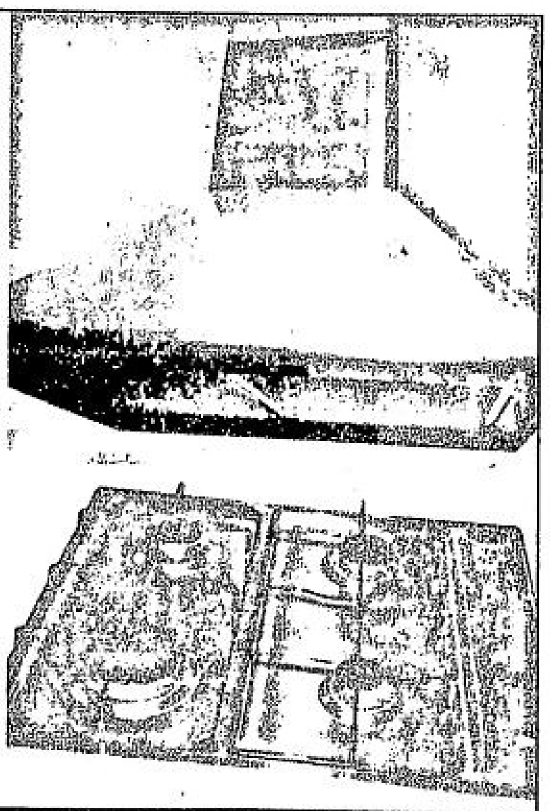

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N. Korea trying to sell missiles, US says

WASHINGTON—North Korea has been attempting to sell missiles to three or four countries in Asia and the Middle East, an administration official said.

The official said Thursday the North Koreans are active in the marketplace for their missiles, apparently trying to acquire desperately needed hard currency to bolster their struggling economy. The official did not specify the range of the missiles Pyongyang is attempting to sell.

Although the official did not confirm an actual missile sale, North Korea is said to have reached an agreement with Egypt on the transfer of No Dong missiles.

North Korean missile sales in previous years to countries such as Iran and Syria have been a sore point for the United States.

A year ago, during its final months in office, the Clinton administration engaged in serious negotiations with North Korea aimed at weaning Pyongyang away from its missile program in exchange for economic assistance.

After President Bill Clinton stepped down, the Bush administration undertook a review of North Korea policy then offered in June to reopen the negotiations. But the North Koreans have yet to respond.

North Korea is believed to have engaged in hundreds of missile-related transactions over the years. During negotiations with the Clinton administration, North Korean officials at one point said they would agree to abandon its missile export program only if the United States offered compensation for lost sales.

The Bush administration has offered to resume the negotiations at any time or place. Pyongyang has held off and also has halted a promising start toward an accommodation with South Korea that began last year.

Four days of bilateral Cabinet-level talks on reconciliation between North and South Korea are set to resume Friday in North Korea. *AP*

Bush-Putin deal unlikely —White House

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin are unlikely to reach a sweeping deal on nuclear arms cuts or missile defense at a summit here next week, a top US official said Thursday.

"I wouldn't expect any particular moment in which you tie it all up with a red ribbon," Condoleezza Rice, Bush's national security advisor, told reporters in a preview of the brief encounter.

Rice also reiterated Bush's determination to scrap the 1972 arms control treaty that bars the missile shield he wants to deploy and his plans to cut US nuclear arms—unilaterally if need be.

"The acquisition of an effective missile defense system for the United States and its allies is one of his highest priorities," she said. "The only way to get there is a robust testing and evaluation system and . . . he's not prepared to permit the treaty to get in the way of doing that."

The Russian leader arrives here late Monday for talks in Washington Tuesday and a stay at Bush's beloved ranch in tiny Crawford, Texas, on Wednesday before heading to New York a day later. It will be their fourth meeting.

Bush, who came to office pledging to reduce the US stockpile of nuclear weapons, announced Wednesday he will go to the table with a figure in mind for how low to cut it.

"His desire to cut offensive nuclear forces comes from his belief . . . that the number of nuclear weapons in the US arsenal exceeds the number of nuclear weapons needed for America's deterrent needs," Rice said, adding "we have no reason to need to match warhead for warhead in the way that we did in old Soviet times."

Russia has been frustrated by Washington's previous refusal to agree to mutual cuts in the two nations' stockpiles of nearly 7,000 nuclear warheads—each to a new ceiling of 1,500 or fewer.

With its own arsenal quickly aging and not enough cash to keep up nuclear parity with the United States, Moscow has pressed for a drastic arms cut before agreeing to any revisions to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which bars US development of

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Gang threatens to kill trader if ransom unpaid

COTABATO CITY—The Pentagon kidnapping gang said it would kill grains trader Martina Martin of Libungan, Cotabato if its P15-million ransom demand is not met tomorrow.

Marlon, the victim's younger brother, said the new deadline for the payment of ransom came after the family failed to come up with the amount yesterday.

He said his father, Martin Martin, got a call yesterday dawn from someone claiming to be one of the kidnappers threatening to kill the 33-year-old Martina if they can not produce the amount tomorrow.

Marlon, accompanied by his uncle Elpedio Mendoza, a retired official of the National Bureau of Investigation, and NBI Director Silvino Cinches, told the INQUIRER that the caller, who was using a cellular phone, reminded his father to expect "a special delivery," if the family failed to comply with the kidnappers' demand.

Asked what that special delivery meant, Marlon said, the kidnappers could be referring to the body of his sister.

Marlon said they did not have the amount being asked by the kidnappers.

On Wednesday, Asuncion Tee, the victim's mother, taped an emotional appeal direct from her hospital bed in Manila, asking Martina's captors to free her daughter.

Speaking in the Maguindanaoan dialect, Asuncion said "the abductors could be our relatives because I grew up in Dulawan (now Datu Piang, a town in Maguindanao) and perhaps they do not know that we too have Muslim blood."

"Besides, our family has helped a lot of Muslims in the past. So, why allow my daughter to suffer," she said.

Military and police authorities said their joint mission to rescue Martina from her captors in the marshy areas of Maguindanao and North Cotabato has been hampered by the weather.

Cinches said the NBI has sought the help of local leaders in the recovery of Martina, who runs a family-owned rice mill in Libungan town.

These leaders, according to Cinches, have assured him that the victim would be released soon without payment of ransom.

"I believe them because they are the kings in their own territories and they are so influential."

Martina was seized at gunpoint by five men who barged into the mill compound in Libungan on Nov. 4 and fled aboard a blue Toyota Corona car which was later found burned and abandoned in a remote village of Midsayap in North Cotabato.

Martina's case was the latest in a string of kidnappings around Mindanao over which the government appears to be helpless.

Government soldiers are still pursuing Abu Sayyaf bandits who had kidnapped several tourists, including foreigners, from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan.

The pursuit operation has led to several encounters and deaths of bandits, but not to the rescue of the hostages. *Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Judge's slay sends fear to officials of Comelec

LAOAG CITY—The recent murder of a Batac judge has sent a chilling effect on election officials who have described the killing as a carryover of the heated political race in the previous elections.

Armed men gunned down Ariston Rubio, executive judge of the regional trial court in Batac town while he was driving to work along a busy road last week.

Lawyer Noli Pipo, Commission on Elections provincial chief, said he believed that Rubio's murder stemmed from politics, noting that the judge was handling mostly election protest cases at the time of his death.

"We believe the bullets that felled Judge Rubio could have been also intended (for) anyone (among) us in the Comelec," Pipo told the INQUIRER.

He said Rubio was hearing a protest case filed by defeated mayoral candidate Bonifacio Clemente against Mayor Nenuca Evangelista, who won the race last May.

Rubio had initially handled another protest case filed by former Mayor Cirilo Quilala, who ran and lost to Currimao Mayor Rosario Go until the case was raffled off to another judge, he said.

Pipo noted that except for the election protests, no heinous crimes or highly controversial cases were pending before Rubio's sala at the time of his death.

"This is a strong message to us (election officers). That if a judge cannot be spared (from the crossfire between political rivals), with more reason that we will not be spared (from harm) in the performance of our duties," he said.

"This could also happen to anyone of us. I have advised my officers that we go on regular confession because nobody is safe anymore."

At least 11 election officers, who were removed from their posts during the May elections due to perceived partiality, have reassumed their original posts but they continue to suffer from indirect threats by politicians to this day, Pipo said.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. earlier offered a reward to anyone who could lead the police in arresting the suspects behind the Rubio ambush.

Marcos said the police have lost an ally in the death of Rubio who, he noted, had supported the campaign against illegal drugs and illegal firearms.

"Judge Rubio would readily issue the police a search warrant once he saw it justifiable. This could have also cost him his life because he was always helping the police," Marcos said. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'Nanang' rains reduce threat of drought in Albay

LEGAZPI CITY—While Typhoon Nanang wrought death and destruction, especially in Camiguin, its coming was a welcome development for Albayanos.

Nanang allayed fears of drought in Albay after showering the province with more than half of its rainfall requirement for November to maintain the water table of its various water sources for drinking and farm feed.

"With the thrice failed 'attempts' of tropical storms to pass directly in Bicol this year prior to Nanang, the region's water reserves has remained insufficient," Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) chief Antonio Arispe told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Our rainfall reserves have not reached the average. We are way below the requirement," Arispe added.

He said Nanang had at least mitigated the effect of lack of rains and typhoons in the Bicol region, which used to be their favorite playground.

Arispe added that the number of tropical storms passing the Philippine area of responsibility is still way below the average.

"Our study shows that we have an average of 19 to 25 typhoons every year but it is already November and we only have had 14 so far. That means, we lack 19, and that would no longer be possible by the end of the year because the most that we could expect is three more typhoons," Arispe said.

Weatherman Othelio Estareja also said "without Nanang, Albay, particularly the city of Legazpi, would have to suffer severe lack of water although the October rainfall requirement was above normal." *Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rebels raid Angeles police station over drug reports

ANGELES CITY—Communist rebels, acting on residents' complaints of extortion and illegal drug trade allegedly by policemen, attacked a police station in Angeles City on Thursday night.

Four Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan members wounded Insp. William Bacay and disarmed SPO4 Santiago Deliva of his service firearm, a .38 cal. revolver.

The 10 p.m. attack highlighted the "increasing involvement of Angeles policemen in extortion (and) drug trafficking that victimized the masses," an RHB leader told the INQUIRER by telephone.

Supt. Arturo Cacdac, Angeles City police chief, denied the allegations.

"If ever policemen are involved in drug trafficking, they are not members of the Angeles police," he said.

Cacdac, however, admitted that drug addiction in the city is growing worse.

He said at least 27 of the city's 33 villages are threatened by the drug trade while two are already affected by the problem.

He said there are 85 drug pushers, 110 users and 108 pushers-users in the city.

A big-time drug trader, a woman said to have links with Chinese syndicates, was arrested in the city in July. Suspected drug dealers killed a village chief at the outskirts of the city in September.

Cacdac said solving the illegal drug trade is a "priority concern" in the city. He assailed the RHB, saying it was "involved in armed extortion activities."

He said one of the rebels was hurt in the brief firefight as indicated by bloodstains left in the jeep that the rebels commandeered for the operation.

In other areas of the country, communist rebels belonging to the mainstream New People's Army have been accused of forcing businessmen and residents to pay revolutionary taxes.

The NPA has also owned up to the killings of several targets, including local government officials and ranking police officers. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southwestern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with rains, winds will be moderate to occasionally strong coming from the Northeast to East. Coastal waters will be moderate to occasionally rough. The rest of Luzon and Western sections of Visayas and Mindanao will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/11/10/01

ROUNDUP

Fire razes stalls

CABANATUAN CITY—A three-hour fire destroyed 188 stalls at the Magsaysay Market in Barangay Sangitan here on Saturday midnight, police said. No one was reported hurt. The fire spared only 15 stalls and the meat, vegetable and fish sections in the market. No official estimate of the damage has been reported but sources said the damage could run to P80 million. A market official said some stall owners reported merchandise losses of P2 million to P4 million each.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Mishap kills 3 teens

SOLANO, Nueva Vizcaya—Three teenagers who came from a late-night party were killed while three others were hurt on Monday dawn when their van slammed into a concrete wall along the national highway here. Police identified the fatalities as driver Ryan Dumpit, 22, and passengers Ralph Lagman, 17, and Alex Garingan, 17, all residents of Bayombong town. The injured were taken to the Veterans' Regional Hospital in Bayombong. Police said the victims' Mitsubishi L300 van rammed the wall of a house in Barangay Bascaran here.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Suspected drug pushers

MATI, Davao Oriental—Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police chief, said 22 of the 100 policemen who were subjected to a surprise drug test last week were "suspected drug pushers and users." Cuy said he decided to also subject to tests the policemen who were not in his drug list "so as not to offend" the 22 policemen. But due to lack of funds, only 100 of the more than 500 police personnel here were subjected to the drug test, which costs P300 per policeman, he said.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Free drug testing pushed

DAVAO CITY—The city council here has joined the call for the suspension of the mandatory drug testing for drivers applying for or renewing their licenses. The city councilors unanimously approved Tuesday a resolution requesting Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez to make drug testing free of charge. The council resolution proponent, Councilor Danilo Dayanghirang, said the drivers are not against the LTO order but they cannot afford additional expenses because of a decrease in their income.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Loi to quit Senate to guarantee Erap return

EJERCITO

MEXICO, Pampanga—Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito said she is willing to resign from the Senate if that is the guarantee the Sandiganbayan wants to ensure that her husband, ousted President Joseph Estrada, would return home if and when he is allowed to leave for knee surgery in the United States.

While she said officials of the administration and the anti-graft court that is trying Estrada for plunder and perjury have not yet broached the idea, Ejercito said, "If that's what they want (her resignation), why not?"

Ejercito, in a visit here Wednesday, was replying to questions on the guarantees she could offer the Sandiganbayan for her husband's return should the court allow Estrada's treatment in the US.

Relinquishing her Senate post, according to Ejercito, is "an easy thing to do."

"I can resign even right now," she said. But, invoking her mandate, she added, "They should (also) ask the people who voted (for) me if they want me to resign. If they say I should resign, then I will."

Ejercito, who led the opposition's Senate slate in the May 2001 senatorial race, was at the Pandacaqui resettlement center here on Wednesday and led a team of doctors and nurses in providing free medical and dental services to some 1,500 residents.

Estrada's leaving the country, Ejercito explained, posed "no problem."

"He's really going to come back because despite the offer of Justice Secretary (Hernando) Perez for him to leave the country after we were asked to leave Malacañang (in January), he said he would not go because he'd like to face all the cases that were being blamed on him. If he had wanted to leave and never come back, he should have done that long ago. But he didn't. That's why I'm certain he's going to return," Ejercito told reporters here.

The senator also reiterated her husband's need to seek treatment abroad for his arthritic knees.

She said Dr. Christopher Mow, Estrada's orthopedic surgeon, wanted the operation done in the US because the facilities for it are not available in the country.

Mow flew in from California two months ago to examine Estrada who, according to Ejercito, "badly needs implants on both knees."

She said the surgery would take "long" because it would prohibit Estrada from walking to be able to recuperate fast.

While she does not disagree with officials who insist that the operation be done in the country because there are good local surgeons, Ejercito said they might just have to respect her husband's preference for Mow.

"We may have the best doctors around but if the patient is not at ease with them or does not have faith in them, the treatment would not be effective," Ejercito, a psychiatrist, said.

She said she has no idea why the court or the Macapagal administration was stopping Estrada from seeking treatment abroad.

She added that her only concern was to let him have his surgery in the US where his doctor is based.

Estrada, according to her, would not commit anything against the law because he has turned "more religious now."

At the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where the former president is detained, Estrada prays novena daily to St. Joseph, the Sacred Heart and St. Filomena.

Her husband, she clarified, has not turned to drinking while under detention.

"Of course not. He's not drinking. Smoking, yes. Drinking, definitely not. He's not also into chain smoking," Ejercito said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Bongbong adamant Marcos family won't pay victims

LAOAG CITY—Not even newspaper advertisements could compel the Marcoses to pay martial law victims as they continued to ditch efforts of obtaining compensation from the estate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. said Wednesday that the 9,539 victims of his father's regime must obtain their judgment in the Philippines instead of banking solely on a 1995 United States court decision that ordered the payment of $2 billion from the Marcos estate.

He also advised the claimants to start their own settlement talks with the government on how the money they are supposed to receive from an escrow account under government control can be released.

For days now, human rights victims have been posting full-page newspaper ads that either lay down statements and pictures of torture victims or quote excerpts from Imelda Marcos' public statements on her husband's wealth.

"What can we do? The money is with the government. I don't know what they hoped to achieve by (putting out) these ads," Governor Marcos said at a press briefing Wednesday.

He said the ads would achieve nothing until the government releases $650 million of the Marcoses' money that sits in escrow at the Philippine National Bank.

Out of the escrow account, the victims are supposed to receive some $150 million in payment as a result of a compromise agreement forged between the claimants and the Marcos family.

"If they are so keen in having this judgment, why don't they file the same case here in the Philippines? Why are they relying on a decision in America?" Marcos asked.

"Everything happened in the Philippines but they're banking on a case that was decided in the US. Then now, they put out ads. What do you expect the ads to do?"

He also prodded the victims to direct their efforts to the government to come to a settlement so that the money is released and the claimants can be paid.

"They are cursing us. But what can we do? The capacity to do what they want is not with us. They are barking up the wrong tree," Marcos said.

The Marcoses themselves have been reportedly sending emissaries to the Presidential Commission on Good Government in a bid to negotiate the family's assets that are under government control, including those that are still unidentified.

However, the PCGG, the commission tasked specifically to recover the Marcos wealth, has laid down specific conditions for negotiations.

Among these are the full disclosure of the remaining Marcos assets and a public apology by the Marcoses to the Filipino people.

To this day, however, the Marcoses had been defiant in disclosing or acknowledging any of the assets that had been identified by the government.

They also insisted that they owe no apology to the Filipino people. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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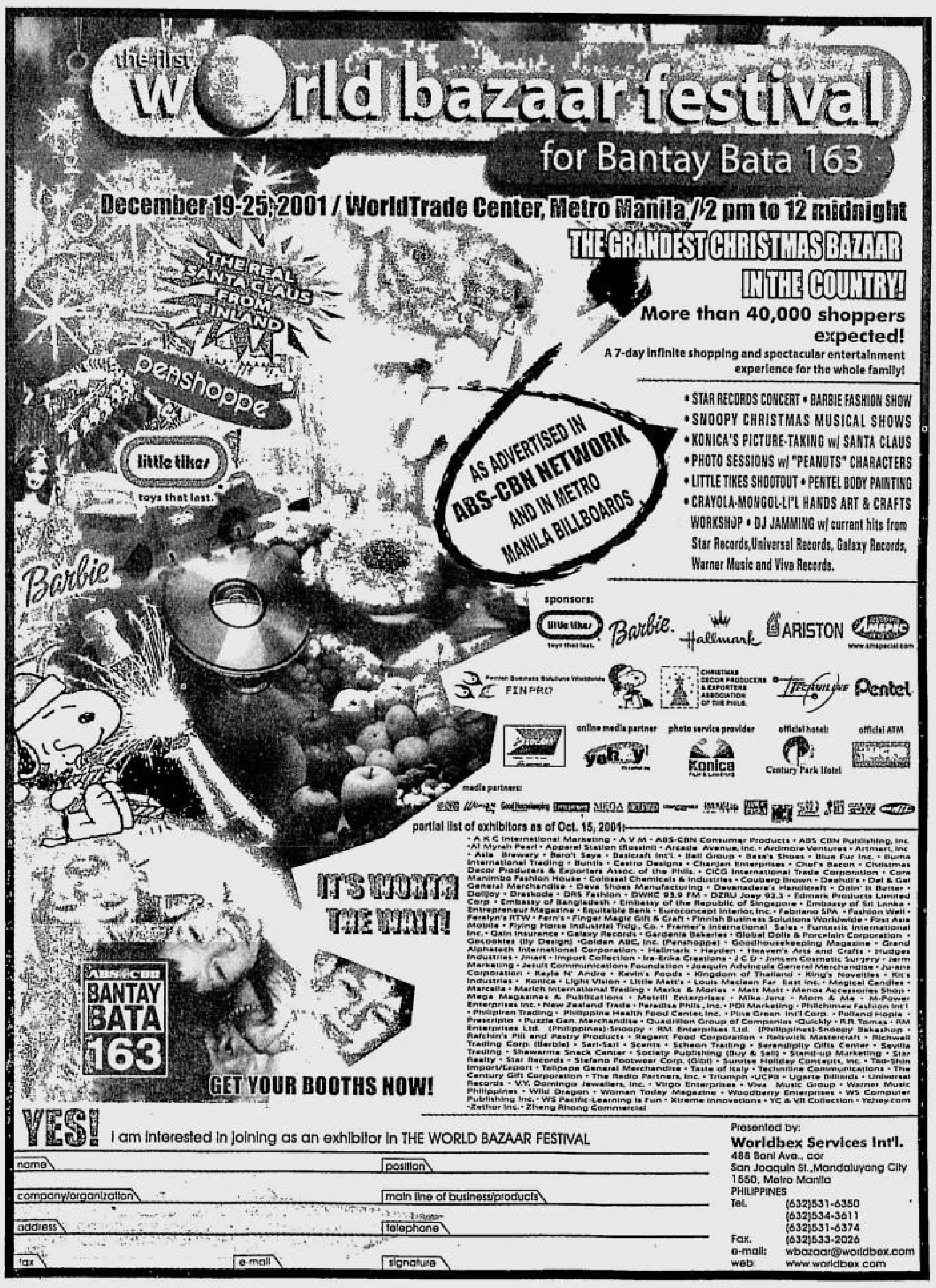
Leaders of groups demanding the abrogation of the Piatco contract with the government clench fists during a recent press conference to dramatize their protest. From left, Angeles City Councilor Alex Cauguiran, head of Move Clark Now; former SEC chair Perfecto Yasay; Susan Pineda of the IMA Foundation and Ruperto Cruz, chair of Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement.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Dumaguete GSIS loans suspended

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Government Service Insurance System has suspended salary loan privileges to Dumaguete City employees after the city defaulted on its salary loan payments from August to October 2001.

Raymundo Salgado, GSIS finance division chief, said in a letter to City Treasurer Eustaquio Cesa Jr. that the salary loan privilege of city hall employees would only be resumed when the city updates its remittances to the GSIS.

Salgado warned the city government that based on provisions of Presidential Decree 1146, or the Revised Government Service Insurance Act of 1977, any employee who fails to remit loan amortization to the GSIS within 30 days should be presumed to have misappropriated such payments and would suffer criminal prosecution.

He also said that unremitted collections are subject to a maximum interest of two percent per month.

In yesterday's city council session, Councilor Manuel Patrimonio urged the city accounting office to act on this matter because employees will borrow money from the GSIS in December.

Acting City Accountant Magdalena Cordova apologized to the councilors for the delay in the remittances, saying her office is short of personnel.

She said they are absorbing the work of City Accountant Daylinda Villarosa, who went on leave Sept. 17 and other personnel who had been transferred to other offices.

"There were replacements but they are still being trained."

Patrimonio suggested that the city accounting office should assign two personnel to work on this until the payments are updated.

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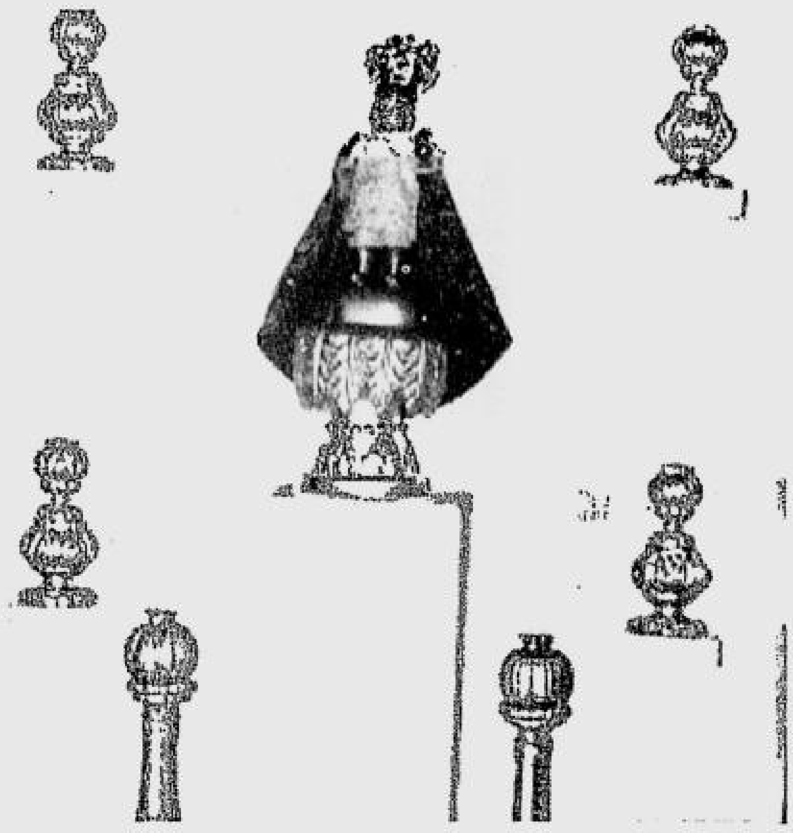


ARNOLD ALMACEN

A REPLICA of the third oldest statue of the Señor Sto. Niño.

Jaro displays its church treasures

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

TREASURES of the faith and remembrances of the glorious and turbulent days of the Archdiocese of Jaro will be open for public viewing starting today as one of the highlights of the 50th anniversary celebration of the archdiocese.

The exhibit, entitled "Handuman: Ang Nagligad sang Aton Palaabuton" (The remembrances of our hope) aims to instill pride among the archdiocese's two million faithful on their religious roots, said Fr. Philipp Neil Antenor Cruz, curator of the exhibit.

It is the first of its kind in Western Visayas.

The historical and liturgical exhibit is housed at the Archbishop's Residence, which is a short walk from the Jaro Cathedral. It showcases the archdiocese's richness in spiritual tradition that dates back to the time when the Augustinian missionaries in the 16th century set foot in Jaro, which was once a thriving community of boat makers and blacksmiths that painted their bodies for adornment and invincibility.

In the Spanish era, Jaro was the seat of the religious hierarchy in Panay, Guimaras and Negros Occidental and of those as far as Romblon, Palawan, Davao, Zamboanga and Basilan. Jaro sent out Spanish missionaries and their Filipino converts to proselytize the locals. They left their imprints by building churches, seminaries and cemeteries that survive to this day.

The exhibits are in three rooms at the Archbishop's Residence. The first is the Papal Room, where pieces of furniture, banners and vestments used during Pope John Paul II's visit in Feb. 20 and 21, 1981 are displayed.

Relics and mementos

The room on the first floor of the house was stripped of smooth wall finish to reveal the many shades of red and yellow coral stones.

During his visit, the Pope crowned the statue of Our Lady of Candles as the patron saint of Western Visayas. The crown is part of the exhibit.

The second room holds the liturgical exhibits.

Among the precious objects displayed were the silver in-laid "altar frontal" (front altar) of the Jaro Cathedral. The ornate and handcrafted altar was torn down after Vatican II when priests started to say Mass facing churchgoers.

The silver altar is one of the few that survived the onslaught of robbers and pilferers who stripped churches of precious metals, stones and old "*santos*" to be sold to antique dealers and private collectors.

Also on display are chalices, stoles and pre-Vatican II vestments.

The liturgical exhibits are placed in a cavernous room that was once a stable of horses and garage for carriages of priests and bishops.

The third room features a walkthrough on the history of the archdiocese, from its humble beginnings in 1678 when the first parish of Iloilo was formed and administered by the Jesuits until their expulsion in 1768.

In the exhibit is a replica of the third oldest Sto. Niño (infant Jesus) found in Villa Arevalo. (The oldest Sto. Niño is found in Cebu, the second oldest in Tondo, Manila).

Part of the display are photographs and mementos of the bishops and archbishops of Jaro since 1868. Jaro became a diocese in 1867 in a ceremony where no less than Fr. Jose Burgos, one of the three martyred priests, signed an edict as pro-secretary of the Archbishop of Manila Gregorio Meliton Martinez.

When the revolt against Spanish colonial rule spread to Jaro, priests in the diocese played important roles in the revolutionary movement.

Martin Delgado, an alumnus of the diocesan-run St. Vincent Ferer Seminary, served as commander in chief of *Ejercito Libertador* (Liberation Army) in Panay.

Priests and fellow seminarians were Delgado's trusted aides, advisers and supporters. One of Delgado's supporters, Fr. San Agustin de la Peña, the diocese's ecclesiastical governor, was abducted and tortured to death by American soldiers during the Philippine-American war. Delgado' memorabilia, loaned from his family in Sta. Barbara town, is included in the exhibit.

Diorama

Four American bishops ruled the Jaro diocese from 1903 to 1945 when the Philippines declared independence from the Americans.

Included in this period display are priceless relics of Bishop James McCloskey, the seventh bishop of Jaro. Known for his holiness and piety, he was the founder of Carmel of Jaro, which became the mother of all Carmelite monasteries in the Philippines. His scapular, which was intact when his bones were exhumed, the novenas he wrote, his favorite chair and writings are on display.

The museum is open from Nov. 10 to 30 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Pork and how the gov't squanders kids' future

BY JUAN L. MERCADO
Cebu City

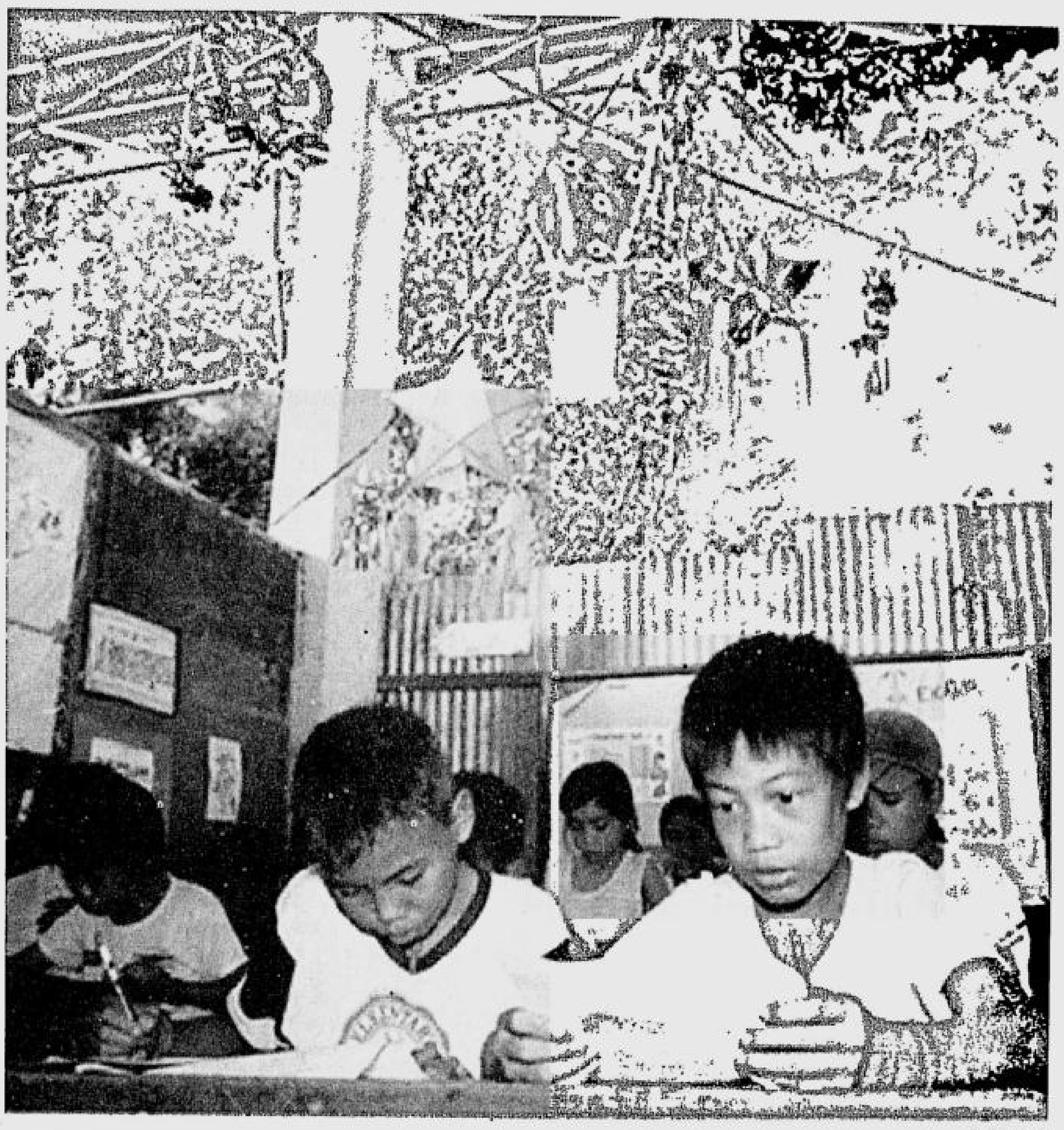
CAN city halls and provincial capitols in the Visayas build badly needed schools at a fraction of what the Department of Public Works and Highways bills for its shabbily cobbled units?

"There is anecdotal evidence that local governments are able to construct school buildings at a lower cost than national government," said a United Nations' Philippine Human Development Report 2000.

Now, a memorandum of agreement, signed between the Provincial Government of Cebu and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, provides hard financial data. It can be done.

Over the next two years, the federation agreed to construct, then donate, 15 two-classroom buildings. They will cost P4.5 million. That's about "half the cost" if the government undertook the project, the independent Cebu Daily News estimates.

Gov. Pablo Garcia, who signed the agreement, confirms the appraisal. "It would have cost some P5.25 million more, if the Department of Public Works and Highways supervised this project," he said.



FILE PHOTO

LEARNING in an atmosphere such as this in a school in Busay could be a tough task, both for students and teachers.

At P300,000 each, federation school buildings would be equipped with features that the costlier (P650,000) but stripped-down DPWH units lack: paint, toilets, blackboards—even glass and aluminum jalousies.

Since 1961, the federation has built 103 classrooms for Cebu. See this track record in the light of Education Secretary Raul Roco's May interview with the INQUIRER.

Tapping into a World Bank P12 billion soft loan, the Estrada administration was to build 2,000 classrooms yearly. But in 1998, it built only two. The commitment fee for the loan was P70 million. So, each schoolhouse cost the taxpayer P35 million.

"*Dapat may diamante yan*," Secretary Roco said. "They should be studded with diamonds. Those were the most expensive classrooms we ever built."

Closing the gap

After the agreement signing ceremony federation president Benjamin Chua Jr. explained: "We are looking at the returns: A more productive citizenry." That bottomline commands respect.

The classrooms, in fact, resemble those Chinese volunteer fire-fighting units. Both close gaps in community service. They also provide telling yardsticks of service. Hence, it is public relations with a clout.

Governor Garcia reaped publicity for the agreement. But Cebu's skeptical press asked nonetheless: "Is government merely piggy-backing on a laudable private initiative? The governor's primary responsibility is the public schools. What has he done for them?"

Precious little, says the Commission on Audit. In its last report, COA challenged Governor Garcia's decision to idle P42.9 million in the Special Education Fund.

The governor instead stacked the amount into treasury bills and time deposits. Schools reeled from a shortage in everything: From teachers, classrooms to supplies and books.

There's only a smattering of computers in Cebu's public schools. Three students share one book. The worst shortage is in science and math texts. "It is inconceivable," an earlier World Bank study noted, "how literacy can be taught effectively without textbooks."

It can't. Shattering results of the recent International Mathematics and Science Tests, administered to 13-year-old children in different countries underscore this stark fact.

"The Philippines ranked 39th—fourth from the bottom, and above Kuwait, Colombia and South Africa," the PHDR recalls. "Filipino students in both lower and higher secondary schools obtained only 31 percent of the correct answers in the Math portion."

"The Philippine Math average is only 78 percent of world average and 42 percent of the score obtained by Singaporeans," the report continues. Grades in Science "were below the international median: 77 percent for kids in lower grades and 80 percent for secondary students.

Quality deficit

That was the IMST in 1995. In the 1999 tests, the Philippines still hadn't budged from the cellar. This "quality deficit," which widened over the years, will not disappear overnight.

Cebu's controversy over the "Silas Marner Syndrome," however, focuses attention on how well local officials use—or misuse—the SEF.

One percent, skimmed off from real estate taxes, goes into the SEF. On average, they grew by 35 percent yearly.

This is a windfall. But it's not due to talented local officials. Mandated revision of land taxes, to hew along fair market values, brought in the cash.

What is required of local officials is simple: Invest SEF resources wisely to develop, through education, the potential of students. These taxes are to underwrite schoolrooms, books and periodicals, equipment, etc.

About 33 centavos, out of every SEF peso, goes to those overpriced DPWH school buildings, a PHDR analysis reveals. Six centavos is spent for sports. Supervision accounts for another 30 centavos.

"There is a need to encourage local governments to reallocate their total education spending to school building and maintenance," PHDR suggests. If prudently used, the SEF can close the supply gap in today's schools.

That is a big if.

In Cebu, the SEF has been idled in a miser's fund by "executive prerogative." And a province-wide COA survey discovered that many local officials treated SEF—like the 20 percent Development Fund—as another mini-pork barrel. They tapped it to fund even socials.

A study of regional indigence, by the University of the Philippines School of Economics' Arsenio Balisacan, found: "Poverty incidence falls by three percent for every one percent improvement in functional literacy."

Schooling remains the people's escape hatch from grinding misery. Abuse of the SEF seals that fire escape. Will the crippling of the SEF, by a "Silas Marner Syndrome," result in thousands of school kids sentences to lives of penury?

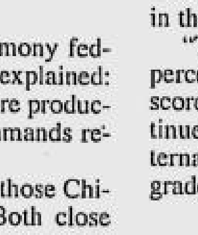
"He who can handle a writing brush," the Chinese proverb says, "will never have to beg."

Local officials can ignore the truth, but only with tremendous human suffering.

Loopholes

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonardia



HE was not able to come to the fiesta this time, but he sent an emissary to deliver his message.

For the feast of St. Jude Thaddeus on Oct. 28, parish priest Fr. Felix Pasquin did not forget to invite the main benefactor in the construction of the church named after the saint of the impossible. Ever since the church, and subsequently Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus, had been inaugurated, former President Joseph Estrada, who had always stressed his devotion to the saint, has always flown over for the Oct. 28 celebration.

This time, he sent his wife, Sen. Loi Ejercito, to join the parishioners and devotees at the Alijis Shrine in Bacolod City. In his message that she read, the former president said St. Jude would always be his guide and inspiration.

"We ask St. Jude to intercede (on) our behalf for he will make the impossible possible," he said.

Was it only coincidence that the next day the Sandiganbayan refused to accept evidence presented by the Ombudsman and dropped the perjury case against him? Or did the saint of desperate cases really step in?

* * *

Another big celebration in the province was the commemoration of "Cinco de Noviembre" which was the day in 1898 when local revolutionaries won freedom from Spanish rule.

The Spanish governor had capitulated and signed surrender papers before he found that the rebels' "rifles" were actually *nipa* stalks carved and painted to look like guns, and the cannons were rolled up *sawali* mats, also painted black and mounted on carts.

The day has been declared a holiday for the province, although the celebration is concentrated in Bago and the nearby cities of Silay and Talisay where the generals who led the revolt came from.

* * *

Not a cause for celebration, however, were the events of recent days that have again focused the attention of the Ombudsman on the province.

Shortly after assuming office, the new governor, Joseph Marañon, and his men started looking into the transactions of the previous administration. The first to be dug up was the purchase of the former top officials of lots in a housing area supposedly for government employees at the Panaad Village.

The next was the purchase of medical and agricultural equipment worth P20 million by the province.

Marañon's men also contend that the equipment, when checked, did not come up to specifications. Former Gov. Lito Coscolluela and his officials had to meet Ombudsman investigators last Tuesday to answer questions.

* * *

In the city, problems include the unpaid emergency allowances of teachers who sought justice from the Supreme Court.

The previous administration stopped the allowances.

It was also discovered that more than 200 workers have not been paid by the Department of Public Services.

Mayor Luzviminda Valdez claims to have no knowledge of their appointments, but City Hall old-timers claim that is impossible. She, however, talks about "loopholes" in the job orders, which adds more mystery to the case, considering that a monitoring team for her office allegedly checks on the so-called job orders.

Another rumbling is developing in the ranks of public utility drivers who are protesting drug tests as a requirement for renewing licenses.

They say the fees are too steep, at P310 each. They have teamed up with the protesting sidewalk vendors who are being herded into a site in a reclaimed area where they claim nobody will buy from them.

Both drivers and vendors claim the city is only strict in the implementation of ordinances and laws against them. They have a strong point, because virtually ignored are ordinances concerning cargo trucks on city streets, motorized tricycles and pedaled ones, expropriation by influential residents and businesses of streets for their parking areas or even tents for their vehicles.

But more ominous to a group of concerned citizens, who have started organizing, is the perception that local government officials seem to be very lukewarm when it comes to the campaign against drugs. Oh, most of them make appropriate noises, like seeking dialogues, confidential ones, with confessed pushers but not convincingly enough.

The group has also expressed alarm and, in fact, denounced in a manifesto Tuesday the use of money from illegal drugs to support the campaign of some well-funded politicians. One wonders if they now have the reason to fear that narco-politics is also reaching out its talons or is already ensconced in their midst

2001 Yakult
NATIONAL DEALERS' CONVENTION

Manila Midtown Hotel
November 10, 2001

YAKULT PHILIPPINES INC
Calamba, Laguna, Philippines

Messages

Allow me to convey my warmest greetings to the organizers of and participants to the 23rd Annual Yakult Dealers' Convention.

I laud your organization for the years of meritorious accomplishments in providing quality health drink for the Filipinos. Your many contributions to the health and welfare of our countrymen are truly commendable. I hope that with this event, you will be able to discuss issues and concerns crucial to your profession and to the industry.

This year's gathering with the theme, "Yakult: 23 Years of Promoting Good Health to Everyone" is an auspicious opportunity to give honor and recognition to outstanding dealers and to the Yakult ladies who have rendered exemplary service over the years. It is likewise an appropriate venue in furthering the Administration's health care programs through the promotion of good health habits all over the country. I welcome this event as an opportunity to fortify your dedication in being active partners of the government in nation building.

I wish the success of this convention and may all of you continue to be inspired partners in our efforts to promote good health for the Filipino people.

More power and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Her Excellency
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings and congratulations to the organizers and participants of the 23rd Annual Yakult Dealers' Convention to be held at the ballroom of the Manila Midtown Hotel on November 10, 2001.

In this occasion, honor and recognition is given to outstanding dealers, the tireless Yakult ladies nationwide, for their exemplary contribution to the promotion of health in the country.

As our country faces new challenges and new opportunities, I ask all of you to join our government in bringing health in the hands of the people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat! Let's DOH it!

JUAN M. FLAVIER, M.D.
Senator
Senate of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of Yakult Philippines, Inc. as they celebrate 23 years of providing quality health drink for Filipinos nationwide.

Such occasion is a great opportunity to express and convey recognition to people who have unselfishly rendered an active sense of duty towards the promotion of health in our country.

Your theme for this year's Annual Yakult Dealers' Convention, "23 Years of Promoting Good Health to Everyone," is of foremost importance as our government gears towards the promotion of quality health care and making it accessible even to our underserved communities.

I hope that through this convention, you will continuously inspire your members to renew their spirit, and pursue with fervor to promote into greater heights more innovative ways and measures that will lead to a sound and healthy Philippines as we move forward to progress and prosperity.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., Msc.
Secretary
Department of Health

My warmest greetings to Yakult Philippines, Inc. on your 23rd Annual Dealers' Convention on November 10, 2001 at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

Your theme: "23 Years of Promoting Good Health to Everyone" speaks well of your relentless commitment to promote outstanding health through your product. Providing affordable, healthful goods to the public is truly beneficial to the welfare of the people, especially the needy.

There's no gainsaying that Yakult's marketing strategy through your mobile lady dealers has greatly contributed in generating employment and creating economic opportunities for growth.

The City of Manila joins you in giving recognition to your dealers. May you continue to provide excellent health products and services to our people. Their health is the nation's wealth. Best wishes on your convention.

Kudos to Yakult Philippines, Inc.

Mabuhay!

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor
City of Manila

Mabuhay! We are celebrating 23 years of total service and selfless devotion, thru rain or shine, to the Filipino people by bringing good health at their doorstep. The Yakult Lady system of selling has proven to be the most effective way of educating our direct customers on the health value of our product – a proven and successful formula worldwide. Because of the truthfulness of what we say, our customers have been increasing in numbers thru the years. We must maintain our excellent partnership and continue helping each other, as family members help one another.

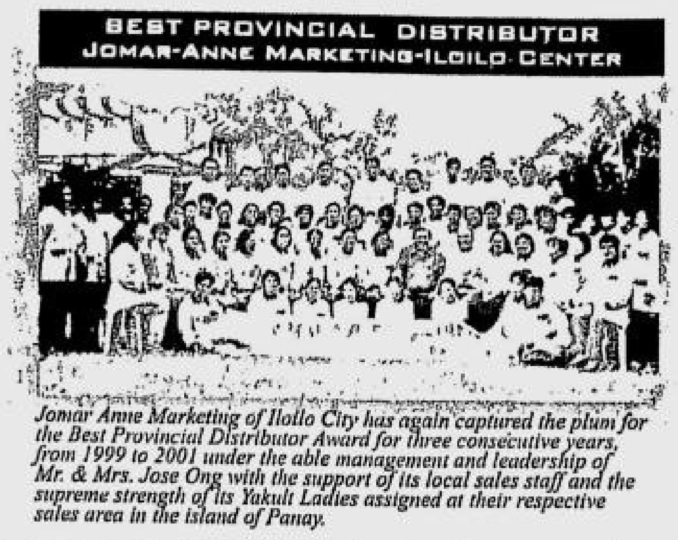
We will always be here for you! Mabuhay tayong lahat!.

J. VICTORY DY SUN
President
Yakult Philippines, Inc.

BEST YMC CENTER
PASIG CENTER

The Yakult Ladies and staff of Pasig Center posing for posterity. The center bagged this year's Highest Sales Achievement, Highest Increase Against Last Year's Sales, Highest Area Occupancy, and Best in Yakult Lady System Implementation.

BEST PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTOR
JOMAR-ANNE MARKETING-ILOILO CENTER



Jomar Anne Marketing of Iloilo City has again captured the plum for the Best Provincial Distributor Award for three consecutive years, from 1999 to 2001 under the able management and leadership of Mr. & Mrs. Jose Ong with the support of its local sales staff and the supreme strength of its Yakult Ladies assigned at their respective sales area in the island of Panay.

23 *Years of Promoting Good Health to Everyone...*

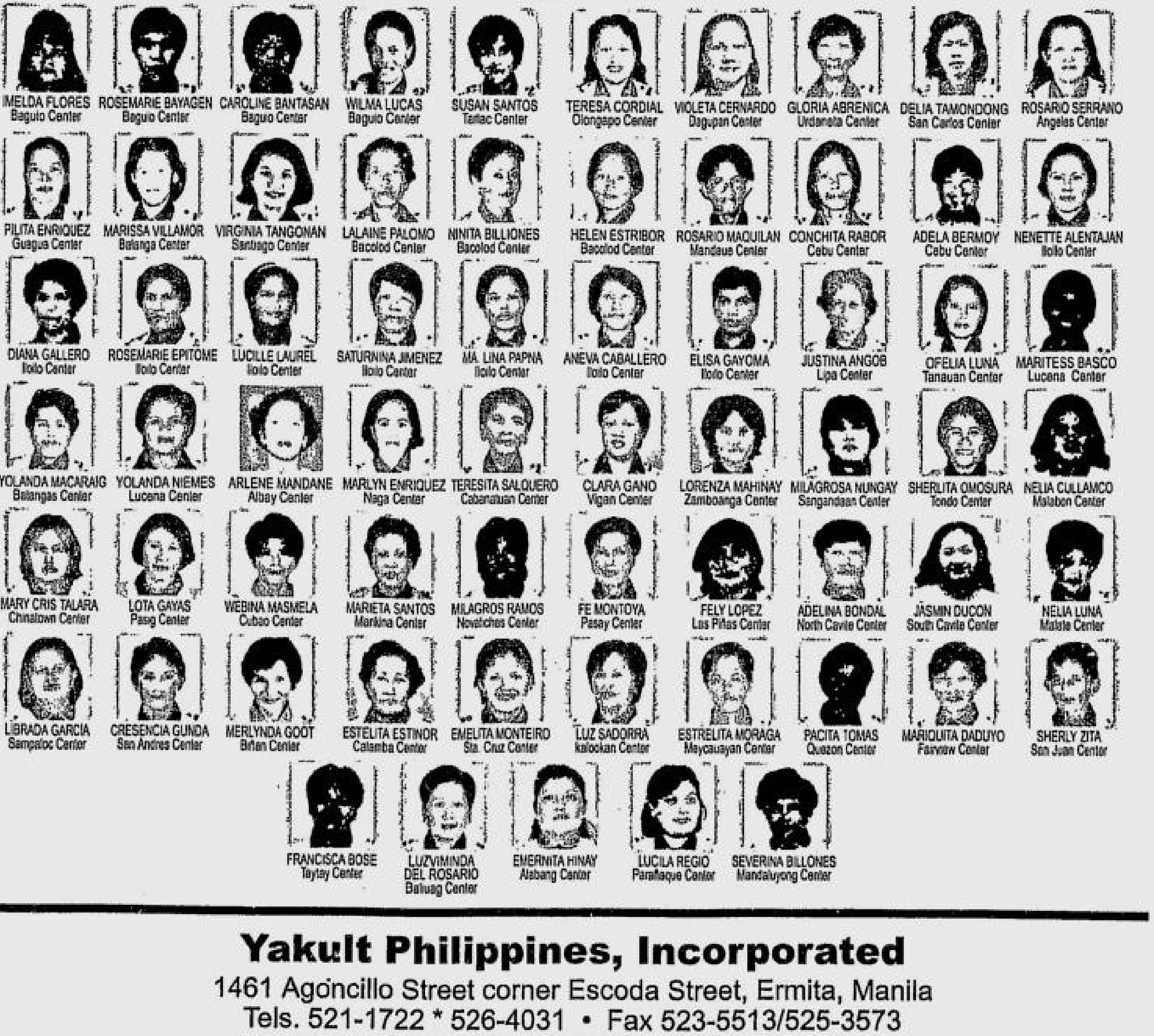
EXCELLENT YAKULT LADIES

LOLITA LIMPIN	Kalookan Center
ANA CORONADO	Taytay Center
EPIFANIA ADRIATICO	Pasig Center
LUMINGNING ROLDAN	Taytay Center
MARINA MORENO	Fairview Center
TERESITA CABARRUBIAS	South Cavite Center
ALEJANDRA GLIANE	Sampaloc Center
LEONORA DOMONDON	Mandaluyong Center
EMMA PINEDA	Chinatown Center
ELSIE BINZA	Chinatown Center
LILIBETH BODINO	Naga Center
THELMA OBSIANA	Iloilo Center
NELLY SORBITO	Iloilo Center
OFELIA HORNADA	Iloilo Center
ELIZABETH GASALATAN	Cebu Center
MARIVIC BEDUYA	Mandaue Center
LEONORA MAROON	Lucena Center
FRANCIA RAGUB	Camarines Norte Center
JULIAN MAGRACIA	Albay Center
PROCERFINA BISCOCHO	Lipa Center
OSENIA LARA	Tanauan Center
YOLANDA OCANG	Batangas Center
HELEN MONDEJAR	Zamboanga Center
GLORIA ALIPIO	Cabanatuan Center
OFELIA STA. MARIA	Gapan Center
ZENAIDA TADEO	Talavera Center
CAROLINA CUBERO	Solano Center
EMILY CASTRO	San Jose Center
BELEN GURANG	Baguio Center
REVELYN MARTIÑEZ	Santiago Center
JULIANA TOLEDANES	Angeles Center
JULIE MERCADO	San Fernando Center
GLORIA MANALILI	Guagua Center
EPHRAIMA TAMORIA	Olongapo Center
TERESA NARCISO	Orani Center
FLORENCIA BALBALOZA	Balanga Center
MELY FERNANDEZ	Dagupan Center
THELMA QUINEZ	Urdaneta Center
MARILYN COLOQUIO	Palawan Center
THELMA PATAYAN	San Carlos Center
SALLY BAYLON	Mabalacat Center
CARMELITA SAMSON	Malolos Center
LINA URBINA	Tarlac Center
ROSARIO AMANTE	Bacolod Center
RIZALINA QUITORIANO	Vigan Center

SUPERIOR YAKULT LADIES

JULIE AQUINO	Taytay Center
ERLINDA CASTILLO	Sangandaan Center
YOLANDA ALFEREZ	Pasay Center
MARIETA LUNGCAY	North Cavite Center
SUSAN RUIZ	Malabon Center
ANA ABELLA	Fairview Center
EDELINA AVISO	Taytay Center
MILAGROS POMBO	Fairview Center
BARSILISA WEDINGCO	Kalookan Center
LUZVIMINDA PAGAL	Novaliches Center
JOSEFINA PEROMINGAN	Chinatown Center
FE REYES	Pasig Center
BEATRIZ DONOS	Marikina Center
HERMINIA MONZON	Tondo Center
MARGIE SABENICIO	Novaliches Center
SOFIA LICOFON	Baguio Center
MAGDALENA SATURNINO	Baguio Center
GLORIA AGATEP	Santiago Center
ELVIRA BANGIT	Angeles Center
BERNARDITA ANCAYA	Olongapo Center
CHERRY DAVID	San Fernando Center
ENIDINA OXALES	Orani Center
SARAH CUISON	Dagupan Center
VIOLETA GONZALES	Dagupan Center
ESTELLA SAMPAGA	Urdaneta Center
AMELIA AGUILAR	San Carlos Center
CRISTETA MACAMAY	Iriga Center
ELENA DOMINGO	Malolos Center
MARCELA ALFARO	Tarlac Center
ELIZABETH BAYOBAY	Bacolod Center
MILAGROS MANEJA	Mandaue Center
JOSEPHINA BELEA	Cebu Center
JULIA EMPIS	Cebu Center
EMMA TARUC	Iloilo Center
MERLIN TARUC	Iloilo Center
MYRNA ROMAGUERRA	Lucena Center
EVELYN DURANTE	Lucena Center
ELENITA DE MONTEVERDE	Albay Center
EMILY RODRIGUEZ	Lipa Center
HELEN OSIO	Lipa Center
ARACELI BANUAL	Batangas Center
AMELIA ORTIZ	Tanauan Center
FREDIZMINDA MOLINYAWE	Tanauan Center
CHARITO URMATAN	Cabanatuan Center
EDITH ALCANTARA	San Jose Center
GLORIA VITERBO	Talavera Center
EMALYN MANGURAY	Solano Center
LANI GABOY	Gapan Center
AQUILLA NAGAL	Zamboanga Center
ROSE GUILLERMO	Vigan Center
GERONIMA GAPUL	Olongapo Center
ROSEMARIE GUTIERREZ	Balanga Center
ANNA ZORAIDA REGALADO	Palawan Center
JENNIFER VELASCO	Angeles Center
OLIVE ALVARO	Guagua Center
JOSEFINA FERNANDEZ	Mabalacat Center
LINDA BARRO	Bacolod Center
DELIA JAVELLANA	Iloilo Center
VIVIAN OPRECIO	Camarines Norte Center

OUTSTANDING YAKULT LADIES



IMELDA FLORES	Baguio Center
ROSEMARIE BAYAGEN	Baguio Center
CAROLINE BANTASAN	Baguio Center
WILMA LUCAS	Baguio Center
SUSAN SANTOS	Tarlac Center
TERESA CORDIAL	Olongapo Center
VIOLETA CERNARDO	Dagupan Center
GLORIA ABRENICA	Urdaneta Center
DELIA TAMONDONG	San Carlos Center
ROSARIO SERRANO	Angeles Center
PILITA ENRIQUEZ	Guagua Center
MARISSA VILLAMOR	Balanga Center
VIRGINIA TANGONAN	Santiago Center
LALAINE PALOMO	Bacolod Center
NINITA BILLIONES	Bacolod Center
HELEN ESTRIBOR	Bacolod Center
ROSARIO MAQUILAN	Mandaue Center
CONCHITA RABOR	Cebu Center
ADELA BERMOY	Cebu Center
NENETTE ALENTAJAN	Iloilo Center
DIANA GALLERO	Iloilo Center
ROSEMARIE EPITOME	Iloilo Center
LUCILLE LAUREL	Iloilo Center
SATURNINA JIMENEZ	Iloilo Center
MA. LINA PAPNA	Iloilo Center
ANEVA CABALLERO	Iloilo Center
ELISA GAYOMA	Iloilo Center
JUSTINA ANGOB	Lipa Center
OFELIA LUNA	Tanauan Center
MARITESS BASCO	Lucena Center
YOLANDA MACARAIG	Batangas Center
YOLANDA NIEMES	Lucena Center
ARLENE MANDANE	Albay Center
MARLYN ENRIQUEZ	Naga Center
TERESITA SALQUERO	Cabanatuan Center
CLARA GANO	Vigan Center
LORENZA MAHINAY	Zamboanga Center
MILAGROSA NUNGAY	Sangandaan Center
SHERLITA OMOSURA	Tondo Center
NELIA CULLAMCO	Malabon Center
MARY CRIS TALARA	Chinatown Center
LOTA GAYAS	Pasig Center
WEBINA MASMELA	Cubao Center
MARIETA SANTOS	Marikina Center
MILAGROS RAMOS	Novaliches Center
FE MONTOYA	Pasay Center
FELY LOPEZ	Las Piñas Center
ADELINA BONDAL	North Cavite Center
JASMIN DUCON	South Cavite Center
NELIA LUNA	Malate Center
LIBRADA GARCIA	Sampaloc Center
CRESENCIA GUNDA	San Andres Center
MERLYNDA GOOT	Biñan Center
ESTELITA ESTINOR	Calamba Center
EMELITA MONTEIRO	Sta. Cruz Center
LUZ SADORRA	kalookan Center
ESTRELITA MORAGA	Meycauayan Center
PACITA TOMAS	Quezon Center
MARIQUITA DADUYO	Fairview Center
SHERLY ZITA	San Juan Center
FRANCISCA BOSE	Taytay Center
LUZVIMINDA DEL ROSARIO	Baliuag Center
EMERNITA HINAY	Alabang Center
LUCILA REGIO	Parañaque Center
SEVERINA BILLONES	Mandaluyong Center

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GMA to Ang-See: Help us stop kidnappings

By Carlito Pablo
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo expressed dismay over anti-crime advocate Teresita Ang-See's statement that the kidnap-for-ransom problem had deteriorated under her administration.

"I'm sorry to hear her say that but she's a member of the National Anti-Crime Commission," the President said at her regular press conference in Malacañang yesterday. An economist by training, the President refused to comment on the statistics that Ang-See presented to prove a dramatic increase in kidnapping incidents.

Philippine National Police records show that 149 victims have been abducted as of Oct. 19 this year. Ang-See's tabulation, however, recorded 225 victims in 105 kidnapping incidents as of Oct. 31.

Macapagal neither confirmed nor disputed Ang-See's claim that in her eight years of involvement in the anti-kidnapping campaign, the current year was "the worst that we have seen." Ang-See is the head of Kaisa, a kidnapping watchdog group.

Citing Ang-See's membership in the NACC, the new agency that coordinates government efforts against organized crime, Macapagal turned the tables on her. "So I hope she will help us solve this problem."

Police officials led by Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza had explained that the rise in kidnapping statistics was partly because of better police-civilian relations. More victims and victims' families were cooperating with police authorities, and thus were reporting more cases.

Gang leader nabbed

As if to prove the point, the government announced a major arrest yesterday. The alleged leader of a kidnap-for-ransom group preying mostly on Indian traders was nabbed on Wednesday, said Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-Kidnap for Ransom Task Force (Naktaf).

He said suspect Ronald Mangosong was arrested by Naktaf operatives on Roxas Boulevard at noon aboard a Kia Pregio van without license plates.

Ebdane said Mangosong's group was responsible for the kidnapping of three Indian nationals in Pampanga and Tarlac early this year. His group allegedly received a total of P4.8 million in ransom money from the three victims.

The three kidnapped Indians were Balwant Singh, abducted on Feb. 8 in Mexico, Pampanga, and released four days later after payment of a P1.5-million ransom; Sukwinder Singh, kidnapped in Pampanga on Feb. 27 and freed on March 2 after payment of P1.8 million; and Paul Naal Singh, abducted on March 18 in Gerona, Tarlac, and released in Binalonan, Pangasinan, on March 22 after payment of P1.5 million.

Ebdane said another member of Mangosong's KFR group, Ronaldo Pine, had already been arrested, and that manhunt operations for four to six more members of the gang were ongoing.

He urged the public to report KFR incidents and information on suspected kidnappers through the following Naktaf hotlines: (02) 724-8838 and (02) 726-6508.

Stripping for medicine

(From page A1)

Palomino Club and an adjacent cabaret along a seedy strip of Las Vegas Boulevard.

"Whatever will provide cash flow will do," Stertzer told the North Las Vegas City Council before it approved his business license application Sept. 5.

Stertzer performed the first coronary angioplasty in the country at New York's Lenox Hill Hospital in 1978, hospital spokesperson Ann Silverman said. He has previously used revenue from business investments to pay for research.

In the early 1990s, he cofounded a company that produces medical instruments, then later sold it. From the sale, Stertzer donated $2 million to endow a chair at Stanford Medical Center's cardiology division, the school said. He also owns some land in Las Vegas where a car repair business is located.

"I think it is a little unusual to finance your endeavor through this means," Councilwoman Stephanie Smith said. "I think some people would find it disconcerting."

The university has received no indication Stertzer's profits from the strip club would help fund medical research at Stanford, Ted Tussing, a spokesperson for Stanford's School of Medicine, said Thursday.

Stertzer did not return repeated phone calls to his office and the club.

"There are people that do a whole host of things to support research, but this is unusual," said Tony Mazzaschi, associate vice president for research at the Association of American Medical Colleges in Washington, DC. "I've not heard of anything like this before."

Mark Nicolepti, the Las Vegas lawyer who helped work on the club sale, said Stertzer was interested in the land and "there just happens to be these clubs on it."

Nicolepti said Stertzer is not involved with the day-to-day operations of the club and rarely visits. "Business is as great as ever," he said.

The Palomino Club is the only all-nude club that serves liquor in the county. *AP*

Chinese tipsters, fly-by-night gangs blamed for kidnaps

(From page A1)

cases (involving Chinese kidnappers) . . . and then that one in Cavite (where) the inside informer was Chinese. But three out of 90 plus! I am very disturbed at what they are telling you now because that means they will not solve the problem. They keep on making one excuse after another. These are unacceptable excuses," Ang-See told the INQUIRER.

She added: "The way they are covering up, it distresses us even more that they know who these people are. There have always been informers from the Chinese community, (pointing out) that this one (or that one) could be a target. There has always been that. But that should not stop the police from solving the problem."

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, next in line to Mendoza and chief of the newly formed National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf), gave a specific example of what he called "a group of Filipino-Chinese targeting their own relatives."

"That incident in the Valenzuela–Caloocan area," he told the INQUIRER. "We found out that this group of Chinese, Filipino-Chinese, was already involved in several cases. So we backtracked to previous years' cases to find out which of these they were responsible for. Turns out that it was their own relatives they had kidnapped."

He also said new, "fly-by-night groups" were responsible for "about half" of all kidnap-for-ransom incidents this year. According to official police documents, some 149 victims were kidnapped in 82 separate incidents between Jan. 1 and Oct. 19. Kaisa said the actual totals are much higher, however, citing statistics jointly compiled by the Citizens Action Against Crime and the Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order.

PNP revamp

Ang-See scored Mendoza for shifting the responsibility for the surge in kidnappings to the Chinese community. "How convenient (for him) to look for culprits where there are none, instead of looking for the real culprit," she said.

She also disputed Mendoza's claim that the rise in statistics reflected greater public confidence in the police. "There were no cases unreported before because of the complete trust and confidence of the community, because they worked very, very closely with (the) police. But now there is a total lack of confidence and trust (in) the police. I mean we are reaping the consequences of this lack of confidence. We warned the President, we talked with Sec. (Joey) Lina, we talked with (Executive) Sec. (Alberto) Romulo (and other officials)."

As early as February, she said, her group had sounded the alarm over the kidnappings.

"I was devastated to hear from one high government official (who said) 'Let us hide the truth because this government is still very unstable.' This government official was supposed to be part of (a group) trying to look for a solution," Ang-See said.

"We kept quiet because we thought it could help, but it (only) worsened."

She said she believes President Macapagal-Arroyo does not know the true extent of the situation. "You see, she is not being told of the gravity of the problem."

"I don't think . . . enough information is getting to her. Unless somebody will talk to the community very closely and the community admits to the President how bad it is," Ang-See added.

On Oct. 15, the President did meet the leaders of the Chinese-Filipino community; it was at that meeting where she made her controversial statement to apply the death penalty in kidnapping cases. But Ang-See said the opportunity to impress the true situation upon the President was lost.

"With 120 people meeting her, you think they could tell her? Nobody (from) the community was asked to make a report (about) how bad the situation really is."

She added that the real problem was "the widespread suspicion based on facts against the PNP leadership who are involved in kidnapping," and suggested that Mendoza himself must be replaced.

"I think she (the President) doesn't know probably that the key solution (here) is a very, very drastic move of revamping the whole PNP. I think she knows and realizes how badly it is affecting the economy. I don't even know if the revamp of the PNP can help but at the very least, it can at least erase from our mind the suspicion that these people are doing these things themselves."

New groups

Ebdane, the new anti-kidnap czar, admitted the surge in kidnapping incidents. "The number of cases has actually increased, no doubt about that," he said, "but looking at each and every incident, (one can see that) about half of this were perpetrated by new groups, by fly-by-night groups, since in some of the cases we observed that the perpetrators were members of the company owned by the victims."

"There were several instances where it turns out that the drivers of the victims themselves were involved in the kidnapping," he added.

While admitting that in some cases the kidnapping-related problems of the Chinese-Filipino community were internal in nature, Ebdane hastened to add that major criminal groups were involved in more cases.

"I would like to point out also that in some (cases), several of these (incidents) were perpetrated by syndicated groups, and by one big group also, (consisting of) uniformed personnel both active and discharged. Army, Marines, police."

He said the PNP had arrested "several of the members" of this group, but "manhunt operations" were continuing.

He identified the "one big group" as the "Batangas-Laguna Group, that is composed of discharged uniformed men from the Army," but added "there are active personnel" involved.

He refused to disclose their names, or indeed to confirm whether the members of the Batangas-Laguna Group had already been identified.

Aside from the Abu Sayyaf group operating in Basilan, Mendoza identified other major kidnap groups: the Waray-Waray, the Ilonggo, the Kuratong Baleleng.

Chinese connection

In his remarks, Ebdane did indicate the number of incidents involving Chinese-Filipino kidnappers. "There were even two or three cases where the perpetrators were their (the victims') relatives."

He also rejected any attempt to characterize these cases as Chinese-Filipinos kidnapping each other ("*sila-sila*"). "No, they're not kidnapping each other (*Hindi naman sila-sila*) because that's only one group. It isn't both sides."

He offered some perspective on the new phenomenon of Chinese preying on fellow Chinese.

"There are at least 120,000 Chinese who enter the country illegally," Ebdane said. "This group of Chinese involved in the (Jackie) Tiu kidnapping was actually engaged in the sale of water pumps. Those pumps came from China; which they would bring to the provinces. Out of the seven (suspects), only two knew how to speak Tagalog . . . Now this group was fond of going to nightspots, karaoke bars, etc. They used to spend P30,000 a night. They were like cows gone wild."

"I would rather see it this way, that they (needed) the money. The background information indicated that each Chinese (national) who leaves (mainland) China (to enter the Philippines illegally) carries a maximum amount of P300,000. They borrow from their relatives, because their regular take-home pay is only about P1,200 or P1,500 a month. That's why they want it (to make money through kidnapping). And then they see that many of the Chinese here are rich . . . "

According to Mendoza, 32 Chinese-Filipinos were kidnapped between Jan. 1 and Oct. 19. Of this total, he said, 30 victims or victim's families cooperated with law enforcement agencies. *(To be continued.)* ***With a report from John Nery***

(The I-Team consists of editor John Nery and senior reporters Ceres Doyo and Jerry Esplanada. They are joined, on specific assignments, by other members of the INQUIRER team.)

French kidnapped; Canadian missing

(From page A1)

Pierre Belanger, a resident of Barangay Lower Balutakay, Hagonoy town, was reported missing on Nov. 3.

Another informant told the INQUIRER that the Frenchwoman's vehicle was blocked after she had dropped her child in school.

Her husband is assigned at the French Embassy in Manila. The victim's identity is being withheld for security reasons.

Southcom confirms

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu confirmed that Belanger had been missing since Nov. 3 but could not say if it was the Abu Sayyaf that held him.

"We don't have a report that the Abu Sayyaf has the Canadian. This could be the work of a local kidnap-for-ransom group posing as Abu Sayyaf group to threaten the family so ransom would be paid," said Cimatu in Taglish.

Defense officials, citing a sketchy report, said that a close friend of Belanger, Boy Niebres of Digos City, had received a telephone call from a male caller who claimed to be an Abu Sayyaf member.

The caller demanded P5 million for the release of Belanger, said to be in his 50s.

Niebres said he was instructed to relay the ransom demand to the kidnap victim's brother, Richard Belanger who teaches at the Cor Jesus College in Digos City.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on Mindanao, said the military and police were working to track down the Canadian.

"We still do not know who was behind the abduction, but initial reports suggest that there is a personal motive behind his disappearance," said Dureza without elaborating.

Dureza said it was unclear if Belanger had regular employment.

At press time, the Canadian Embassy could not be contacted for comment.

Looking busy

In Davao City, SPO3 Julien Mina of the Hagonoy police intelligence and operations section, said their own investigation had found that before he disappeared, Belanger had been seen going to Digos City with another foreigner, identified as Robert Wood.

"They were seen riding on separate motorcycles around 2 p.m. of Nov. 3," Mina said.

He said neighbors told police that they saw Wood the next day but not Belanger.

Wood was reportedly accompanied by a certain Boy Halal and was seen going in and out of Belanger's house.

The neighbors could not say what the two were up to.

"They looked busy," said Mina, quoting Belanger's neighbors.

Another Hagonoy police officer, Narciso Saraum, said Belanger was living alone as he had recently separated from his third wife.

"He has been in the Philippines for quite a time now. He married at least three girls, one of whom was from Magsaysay town. He recently separated from the third one and has been living alone," Saraum said.

Pattern

Mendoza said the kidnapping of the Frenchwoman is similar to the abduction of the wife of an official of the Eastern Police District Office in Mandaluyong City.

Rosita Abela, 40, wife of Senior Insp. Rene Abella, EPDO Scene of Crime Operatives chief, was later released unhurt in Muntinlupa City after her abductors realized that they mistook her for a wealthy matron.

Mandaluyong City police chief Supt. Sukarno Ikbala said Abella was abducted on Thursday morning in front of the St. Francis Church at the corner of St. Francis Street and Shaw Boulevard.

Abella was waiting for her husband when the armed abductors, which included a woman in a nurse's uniform, forced her into a van.

Once inside the van, Abella was blindfolded, and an oxygen mask was placed on her face to prevent her from shouting, police said.

A few moments later, one of the kidnappers asked Abella if she were rich. Police said Abella told the kidnappers she was not rich and that she was sick with leukemia. She also told them she is the wife of a police officer.

Abella was then released and left at the Alabang viaduct, police said.

Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. ordered an investigation of the incident.

He said all efforts should be exerted to apprehend the kidnappers.

Abalos also ordered the local police to tighten security measures and increase their visibility in all malls, movie houses, churches and other public places.

Death and destruction

(From page A1)

Recovered bodies had to be washed with Lysol before these were placed inside bodybags.

Twenty coffin makers worked around the clock as bodies piled up.

As Mahinog ran out of embalming fluid to preserve the dead, a backhoe dug a massive hole in the town cemetery and workers buried 15 people in plywood coffins.

The municipal health officer, Dr. Juanita Llacuna, said the dead must be buried immediately to prevent disease because they were already decomposing.

Tomorrow, President Macapagal-Arroyo will visit Camiguin to see for herself the extent of Nanang's destruction.

Ms Macapagal said two countries wanted to assist in relief efforts.

Hysterical

Most of the survivors were hysterical and often asked for their missing relatives on the first day of the debriefing sessions Wednesday, according to Agnes Bohol, provincial social welfare officer.

But yesterday most of them learned to accept their fate, saying that the tragedy was the will of God.

Fr. Benecio Andohon, new parish priest of Mahinog, said he was "surprised that the flash floods happened when the forests in the nearby mountain were green and thick."

"This is a natural calamity. There is nothing we can do to prevent it," the priest said.

Andohon told the INQUIRER that he was too overwhelmed by the tragedy.

He said he saw his parishioners buried alive under big boulders and washed-out trees.

"I don't know what to do now. I must ask my fellow priests and the bishop to help me in this," he said.

Some social workers themselves are to be subjected to counseling as they have become too attached to the survivors, according to Bohol.

Bohol cited the social worker assigned at the Camiguin General Hospital, who is taking charge of some 80 patients from Mahinog.

She said the social worker had refused orders for her pullout.

"She is pretty much involved that is why we are trying to get her out but she refuses. Definitely, she too would undergo stress debriefing," the provincial social welfare officer said.

Seven of those who died in Camiguin were relatives of INQUIRER correspondent Romulo S. Ponte.

One of them was 79-year-old Emerenciana Saligumba Galbiso or Lola Ciana, Ponte's maternal grandmother.

Galbiso, along with Ponte's uncle, Armando Saligumba, 60, were among those confirmed dead.

Both were residents of Sitio Kamagong, Barangay Hubangon, Mahinog town.

Romualdo said it would take time for the pain to heal but that he was thankful his provincemates did not desert each other.

"We will start rebuilding lives first before we give attention to infrastructure damaged by the disaster," Romualdo said.

More survivors

Twenty of those who were earlier reported missing were found alive.

Some of them were rushed to the hospital for treatment of injuries.

Dr. Joseph Chrysler Beja, Camiguin General Hospital chief, said the survivors in serious condition had already been stabilized.

"The medicines that are needed have been taken cared of by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council. We have enough physicians now to take care of the victims," Beja said.

Some of the survivors are to be discharged soon except for a 15-year-old girl.

Lermie Babanot lost her parents and four siblings when the whirlwind descended on Mahinog.

"She has to be tied up because she keeps on moving her legs that could dislodge the needles on it. She is in too much pain," Elmer Babanto, her uncle, said.

Assistance

In Cagayan de Oro City, drivers, workers, farmers and members of the urban poor associations are extending whatever help they could to the typhoon victims.

Mayor Vicente Emano said he had put up a receiving desk at his office for donations.

The Bureau of Customs said it would release seized *ukay-ukay* (used clothes) for distribution to the victims.

Private and public school administrators have requested their students, from primary to tertiary levels to bring clothing, blankets and other useful items.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who hails from Misamis Oriental, shipped 100 sacks of rice and 100 big boxes of various goods to Camiguin yesterday.

Also yesterday, Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman arrived in Camiguin, along with presidential assistant for Mindanao, Jesus Dureza.

The death toll in the Visayas continued to rise as search operations continued to recover bodies of those who have died in floods.

As of yesterday, 11 more persons were reported to have died at the height of the storm—nine more in Negros Occidental and two in Antique.

The number of fatalities in a Cebu rose to 19 while that in Negros Occidental to 17. Two died in Antique.

Kalibo flooded

While flood water had subsided in most of the affected areas in the Visayas, the capital town of Kalibo in Aklan remained in danger because the Aklan River was still rising yesterday because of continued heavy rains and gusty winds in the nearby mountain towns of Madalag and Libacao.

The collapse of the one-kilometer seawall in Washington town, worth more than P30 million, also endangered the coastal villages along the national highway parallel to the seawall.

In Toledo City, the bodies of three of the 14 workers presumed to have died inside a mine pit of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. were recovered yesterday.

In Puerto Princesa City, reports reaching the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council said a number of bridges in some towns had collapsed due to flooding.

At dawn yesterday, Puerto Princesa and nearby municipalities experienced power interruption despite the presence of a newly installed power barge. Some telephone lines were cut.

In Laguna, some municipalities and parts of San Pablo City experienced a brownout for almost 30 minutes yesterday at noontime. ***Reports from Grace Cantal-Albasin, Butch D. Enerio and Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Carla Gomez, Odon Bandiola, Debra Jane Magallon, Raj Padilla, Jani Arnaiz and Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau; Dennis A. Maliwanag, Jofelle P. Tesorio, Rey Nasol and Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Gerald G. Lacuarta, Dona Pazzibugan and Phillip Tubeza in Manila; and AP***

SEATTLE'S Gary Payton (right) and Jason Kidd of New Jersey chase the loose ball in their NBA game at East Rutherford, NJ. The Nets won, 106-94. AP

DUNCAN SHINES

Spurs sting Hornets

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina —Tim Duncan had 33 points and 16 rebounds and rookie Tony Parker added 22 points to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 105-95 victory over the Charlotte Hornets.

The 19-year-old Parker, who made his first career start in Tuesday's win over Orlando, shot 8-for-16 from the floor Thursday and hit four 3-pointers - one of them in a 7-0 run that sealed the win.

Jamal Mashburn scored 21 for the Hornets, who have lost three straight and held a players-only meeting Wednesday to address their inconsistent play.

David Robinson, Malik Rose and Terry Porter all scored 11 for the Spurs. Robinson also had 10 rebounds.

Nets 106, SuperSonics 94

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Todd MacCulloch had a career-high 29 points and 10 rebounds to lead the red-hot New Jersey Nets over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Jason Kidd added 16 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds as the Nets won for the fourth time in five games, their best start since winning four straight to start the 1997-98 season.

Timberwolves 127, Bulls 74

In Minneapolis, Joe Smith scored 17 points to lead seven Timberwolves in double figures as Minnesota led by as many as 56 points and defeated Chicago.

The 53-point margin made it the most lopsided victory in Timberwolves history. The NBA record for margin of victory is 68 by Cleveland against Miami in 1991.

Bucks 86, Heat 82

In Milwaukee, the Bucks got 26 points from Glenn Robinson and held off the depleted Miami Heat for the second 4-0 start in franchise history.

Ray Allen added 22 points for the Bucks, who are off to their best start since the 1971 team won its first seven games.

Rod Strickland, playing for the first time in three games because of a tender ankle, stole the ball from Sam Cassell with 19 seconds left and the Heat trailing 83-82.

But Strickland put up an ill-advised shot underneath that went out of bounds as his teammates Jones and Brian Grant were fighting for the rebound with 3.7 seconds left.

NBA RESULTS

Spurs 105, Hornets 95; Nets 106, SuperSonics 94; Timberwolves 127, Bulls 74; Bucks 86, Heat 82; Mavericks 105, Nuggets 91; Suns 108, Hawks 80; Rockets 77, 76ers 72; Trail Blazers 119, Clippers 101. *AP*

US women's team

DES MOINES, Iowa—With college tournament success and four WNBA championships already on his resume, Van Chancellor is now ready to take on the world.

Chancellor, who guided the Houston Comets to the league title in the WNBA's first four years, was selected Thursday to coach the U.S. women's basketball team in the 2002 world championships. *AP*

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Marathon draws Asean entries

THE 25TH National Milo Marathon will see the country's best runners in action against their counterparts from other Asean countries who have signed up for the grand finals to be held on Dec. 9 at the Rizal Park Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

Milo Sports Executive Jackby Jaime announced that runners from Malaysia and Thailand have already confirmed their participation in the yearend finals.

"We are waiting for runners from other countries to confirm their participation in the big final of the Milo Marathon," said Jaime. "Indonesia will also be probably represented in the 42-kilometer race."

The ASEAN countries in the silver edition of the country's most prestigious and longest-held running event, will be chosen by their respective national track and field associations.

Andrew Bramston, Nestle Philippines Vice-President for Coffee and Beverages, said the participation of runners from overseas brings a heightened sense of competition and excitement to the race.

"The participation of runners from neighboring countries is a timely and welcome development as we celebrate this special milestone,"said Bramston.

ASEAN runners will join pre-qualified local runners who have won the top three slots in the 12 regional elimination rounds in Metro Manila, Davao, Naga, Tacloban, Olongapo, Bacolod, Tuguegarao, General Santos, Batangas, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio and Cebu.

Apart from cash prizes of P75,000 and P50,000 respectively for the local male and female marathon champions as well as a bonus of P25,000 for each, a separate set of prizes will be awarded to foreign winners. They will be awarded corresponding prizes provided they finish among the top 10 in the 42-K race.

The travel of foreign runners will be provided for by their respective Nestle markets, while their expenses in-country will be shouldered by Nestle Philippines.

Aside from the full 42-kilometer course, the finals will feature a 3-K kiddie race, a 5-K fun run, and a 10-K category, all of which are open to the public.

A 5-K media run, open to all sportswriters and sports photographers of nationally circulated broadsheets, tabloids and sports magazines, will be featured in the event.

PCA tennis starts today

THE COUNTRY'S top players led by RP Davis Cuppers Johnny Arcilla and Adelo Abadia see action today in the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts.

Arcilla, the No. 1 seed who won the Escudero Cup in San Pablo City two weeks ago, takes on wild card Dino Ferrari at 12 noon.

RACING TIPS

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Race 3—1. Free Magic 2. Global Power 3. Rainbow Dazzler
Race 4—1. May's Magic 2. Noble Principality 3. Southern Skies 4. Ray Moon 5. Love Triangle
Race 5—1. Gold Honors 2. Demolition Jack
Race 6—1. La Signorina 2. Divine Diva 3. Eyewitness
Race 7—1. Celebratino 2. Pistol Red 3. Bulwak 4. Red Thunder
Race 8—1. Play By Ear 2. Irish Star 3. Exceptional Charm 4. Gifted Galloper 5. Personal View
Race 9—1. Arch Rival 2. Big Kahuna 3. Victoria Scarlet 4. Letshaveaparty
Race 10—1. Heavy Metal 2. Bohemyo 3. Sky Cat 4. Kissin Tzang 5. Rainmaker
Race 11—1. Suterian Era/Bari Bari 2. Hemisphere 3. Music City 4. Houdini
Race 12—1. Gifted Angel 2. Corporate Law 3. Samahan 4. Brenda Starr 5. Strawberry Joy 6. Court General

GameworX hosts tenpin tilt

GAMEWORX Inc. lived up to its name as the ultimate sports and recreational venue by organizing the 2nd Pepsi-GameworX Invitational Tenpin Bowling Classic Tournament on Nov. 30 to Dec. 4 at the StriXe, fourth level of the Festival Supermall in Filinvest Alabang Muntinlupa City.

The five-day tournament is an Open Class Single Event, sunction by the Philippine Bowling Congress, wherein PBC and FIQ WTBA tenpin bowling rules and regulation will be applied.

The tournament is expected to lure 144 up to 204 bowlers throughout the country. Dagupan Association of Tenpin Bowling (DATB) is one of the early entries in the tournament. Iloilo and Bacolod bowlers also sent their intent of joining the competition.

"We can consider this competition as one of the major National Tournament for tenpin bowling in the land. As early as this week, more than 80 bowlers have already registered," Gameworx GM Vinla Yabut said.

Ulutan cockfest tomorrow

THE NEW management announced a unique way of cockfighting with the holding of the 2-Cock Ulutan at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City tomorrow.

Hosted by ASF & Co., these battles of feathered warriors have a guaranteed prize of P40,000 for an entry fee of P1,000 and P2,200 minimum bet.

They also announced that this Ulutan will be participated in by popular cockers from Metro Manila and the nearby provinces such as Ricky Castillo, lawyer Rudy Salud, William Go, Dennis Del Rosario, Lito Alcantara, Boy Lechon de Roca, Boy Gamilia, Vic Yu, and many others.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said the fastest kill in the second fights of this Ulutan will receive a bonus of P5,000.

He also said paying patrons will be treated to a raffle whose prizes are electric fan, rice cooker, 50 kg rice oven toaster.

For cockhouse reservation call tels. 833-1638 or 833-2275.

Other derbies scheduled at Roligon are PCS 5-Cock Season Opening Derby by Ricky "Lakpue" Castillo Jr. on Nov. 19, 21, 24 & 27 and LA 939 4-Cock Derby by Lito Alcantara on Nov. 29.

WORLD RECORD
VALENTINA Popova of Russia lifts 142.5 kgs in the clean and jerk in the World Weightlifting Championships at Antalya, Turkey. Popova sets two new world records in the snatch (115 kgs) and a 257.5 kgs combined score in the women's 69 kgs weight category. AP

Biboy rules derby

HOTELIER-SPORTSMAN Biboy Enriquez of Rizal, fresh from capturing the NCA 7-Stag Derby recently, continued his winning streak by ruling the "LGBA Inaugural 6-Stag Derby" Thursday night at Mandaluyong Coliseum after his bet Ucap March 19-21 II posted 5.5 points.

Enriquez thus took the early lead in the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year race, followed by engineer Jun Sevilla of Batangas (JRS Spectrum) and LGBA president Boy Diaz and Butch Littaua (Purple Haze) who carded 5 points each.

Also finishing in the money, with 4.5 points apiece were Peping Cojuangco (CAT Stinger), Sandy Javier and B. Diaz (Royal Maverick Purple Haze I) and Rep. Lawrence Wacnang (Crowsland).

With four points each were Blandy Tolentino, Romy Tan, Esting Teopaco, Maj. Bobby Doromal, Wilson Go, Jojie dela Merced, Sonny Lagon, Bitchot Echauz, Peter Uy and Emoy Gorgonia and Bobby del Rosario.

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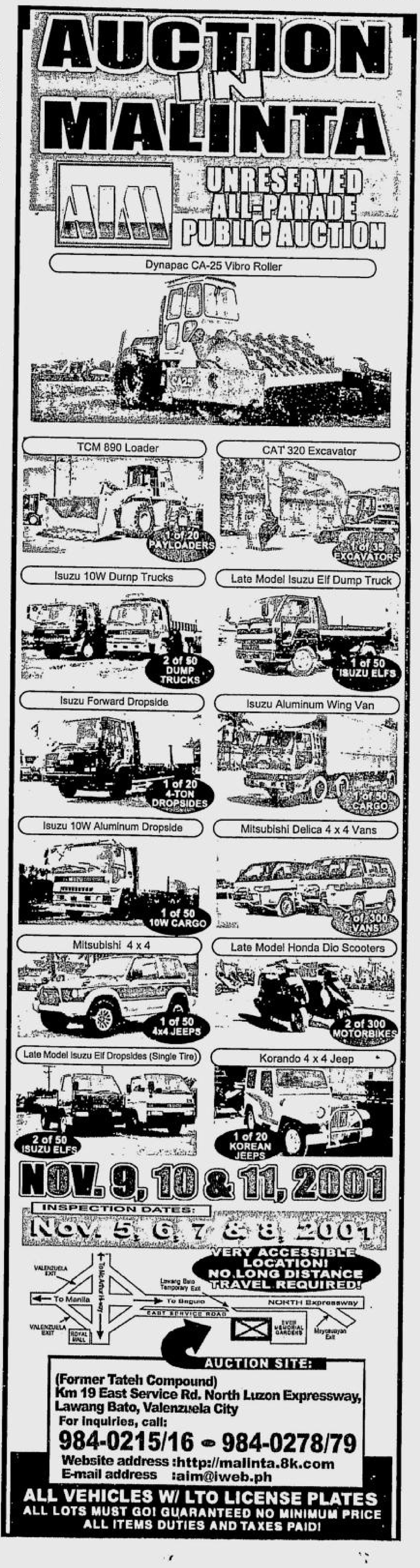

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NBA Inside Stuff at 11 a.m. (r – 6 p.m.) on Star Sports

NBA - Memphis Grizzlies vs LA Lakers at 11:30 a.m. (r – 6:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

TENNIS: WTA Tour Championships, Semifinals at 3 p.m. on Star Sports

ATP Tennis Show at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: LPGA Cisco World Ladies Match Play Championship, First Round at midnight on ESPN

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Arroyo hands ₱3M to RP gold medalists

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

PRESIDENT Arroyo yesterday personally handed an additional P3 million bonanza to the gold medalists in the recent Southeast Asian Games.

A day after appealing to the national athletes and coaches to stop their protest rally against Philippine Sports Commission officials, the President lavished them with a windfall on top of the P2 million she already gave last month.

She also thanked the 48 national athletes for bringing honor to the country, which finished at fifth place in the Kuala Lumpur SEAG with 30 golds, 66 silvers and 67 bronzes.

The President gave P100,000 each to individual medalists, plus another P100,000 for members of the gold medal-winning teams. Track star Eduardo Buenavista came out as the biggest beneficiary with P200,000 for winning two gold medals.

PSC chair Butch Tuason, the target of protesting members of the Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines, was present during the brief ceremony but there was no mention of the meeting that transpired between the President and the group on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is awaiting the final confirmation from the Olympic Council of Malaysia for the awarding of gold medal to javelin thrower Dandy Gallenero. The Filipino finished second to Thai Thirdsak Boonjansari, who was found positive for use of banned drugs.

Taiwanese subdues Korean, gains semis

CHUANG: On track for a back-to-back ITF women's circuit title. ERNIE SARMIENTO

CHUANG Chia-Jung of Chinese Taipei continued her impressive climb to a second consecutive singles title by beating Korean top seed Kim Jin-Hee, 6-2, 6-3, yesterday to make the semifinals of the Union Cement-ITF women's circuit at the Rizal Memorial tennis center.

Chuang, who won the first leg of this event last week, thus improved her world ranking from No. 953 to 918 after disposing of the Korean, who is ranked 415th in the world, in one hour and 20 minutes.

She will then face fourth seed Sonal Phadke of Indonesia, who edged Korean Ha Ji-Sun, 6-2, 6-4.

India's Radhika Tulpule, the world's No. 511, turned back sixth seed Weng Tzu-Ting, 7-6 (4), 6-2, while Thailand's Prariyawan Ratanakrong booted out her compatriot, Thassha Vitayaviroj, 6-2, 6-1, to complete the semis cast.

In doubles action, Tulpule and Shruti Dhawan crushed Taiwanese Chan Chin-Wei and Chen Yi, 6-3, 6-4, to barge into the quarterfinals against Koreans Kim Ji-Young and Kim So-Jung. The Koreans won over Filipina Czarina Mae Arevalo and Fil-American Diane Matias, 6-4, 6-4.

Also winning their respective matches were Chinese Taipei's Chao Hsiao and Malaysia's Khoo Chin Bee, Radhika Mandke and Phadke, Ha-Ji-Sun and Shin Mi-Ran of Korea, Lam Po Kuen of Hong Kong and Vitayaviroj, and Mireia Gol of Spain and Chuang. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

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Shell wrests Magic 4 slot

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs San Miguel
6:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Talk N Text

BY JUNE NAVARRO

SHELL had little trouble beating Purefoods, 96-83, to gain a share of the lead and the twice-to-beat advantage last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

So easy were the Turbo Chargers in chalking up their eighth win in 12 games that it only took them a second-quarter demolition job to tear the Hotdogs apart.

Askia Jones sparkled anew with 36 points as the Turbo Chargers won seven of their last nine outings, including a three-game winning streak, creating a two-way tie for the lead with idle Sta. Lucia Realty.They are now assured of a place in the Magic Four and the twice-to-beat edge which goes with it.

In the second game, Barangay Ginebra edged Tanduay, 88-85, to improve its slate to 6-7. The Rhummasters fell to 5-8.

Jones, who pulled a caper against the Realtors last Sunday by scoring a conference-high 60 points, spearheaded a 19-2 run that broke a deadlock at 28 and had the Turbo Chargers enjoying a huge 69-45 spread bridging the second and third period.

LBC Batangas downs Davao

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araullo Gym, Cabanatuan City)
3 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs TPG Davao
5:30 p.m.—Negros vs Nueva Ecija

THE LBC Batangas Blades' sharpness cut down the TPG Davao Eagles to size yesterday.

Baring their deadly form only in the second half, the Blades routed the Eagles, 103-87, to assure themselves of the top qualifying spot in the Northern Conference of MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

A nine-point blitz in the fourth quarter was all the Blades needed to pull away from the Eagles, 93-76, and post their 11th win against a lone defeat that put them beyond reach of FedEx Laguna (9-3) and Andok's San Juan (7-4).

FedEx Laguna beat Andok's San Juan, 95-85, in the second game to wipe out the Knights' chances of dislodging the Blades as No. 1 qualifier. Regardless, the Lakers and the Knights are certain to figure in a best-of-three series for the right to challenge the Blades for the Northern crown.

As expected, TPG Davao put up a tough fight in the early going, leading up to the first half, 57-52.

Once the Blades' juggernaut went to work, however, there was no stopping the Blades, who took the third quarter at 81-70.

Shark battles Kutitap

BY DENNIS U. EROA

DEFENDING champion Shark Energy Drink tries to make amends as it tackles Kutitap Toothpaste today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

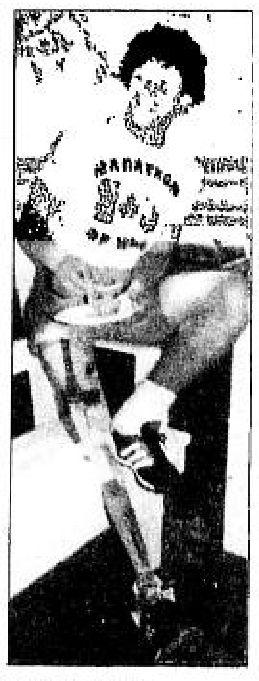
Erratic and playing without intensity, Shark got upstaged by crowd drawer Ana Freezers, 72-67, in overtime last Thursday as it fell to a 1-1 win-loss record.

"Ana played a wonderful game. We had a lengthy talk after the game and identified our lapses," said Shark mentor Leo Austria.

Shark committed 20 turnovers against Ana.

Kutitap, now being handled by Koy Banal, is also 1-1. The Sparklers slipped past the Montaña Jewels, 76-74, in their last game and will go all-out to pull the rugs from under Austria's charges.

The Shark-Kutitap game is set at 2 p.m., followed by the 4 p.m. match between Blu Detergent and Montaña



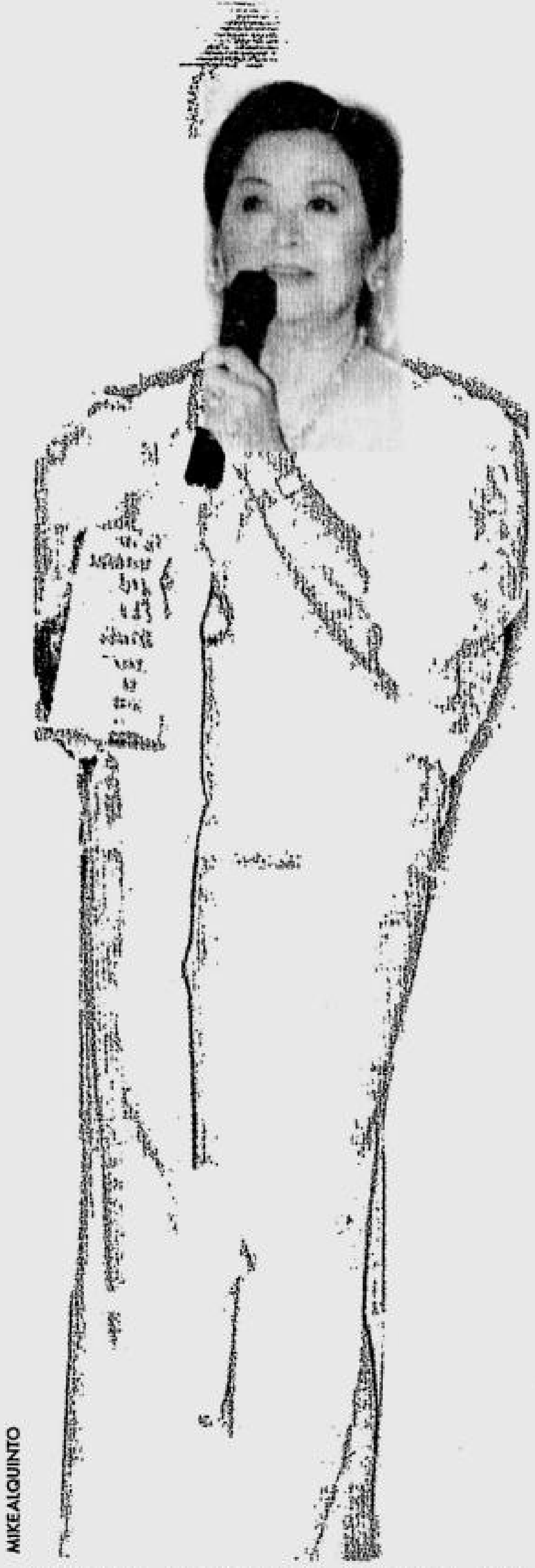
RUNNER

The Terry Fox Marathon will be held on Nov. 18 at the CCP Complex in Pasay City for the benefit of cancer patients. An entry fee of P200 will give a participant a T-shirt. Call 7342127 or 7342114 for other details. In photo is the late Terry Fox of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, who founded the marathon after losing his right leg to cancer in 1977 when he was 18. He died in

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Napolcom denies Mendoza request for guns A20



MIKE ALQUINTO

LIFETIME achievement awardee Nida Blanca in the Urian Awards in March 2000.

DENR: Transfer oil depot to Pasig City

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources will recommend a 300-hectare reclamation area in Pasig City as the new site of the oil depots in Pandacan, Manila.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez said in a news conference yesterday that the area could also be transformed into a cargo terminal for bunkering fuel shipments from other countries.

Another possible site is a 50-hectare lot in the coast of Pampanga, Alvarez said.

But he said the relocation would take place in not less than three years and not in six months as proposed by the Manila city council.

"This is also our concern because it has environmental implications," Alvarez said. "I am in favor (of transferring) these oil depots. But based on urban planning studies, it would not be possible to move the oil stor-

DENR/A20

'Who can listen to boogie without thinking of Nida?'

By Leah Salterio

"CAN you ever listen to the boogie without thinking of Nida (Blanca) and Nestor (de Villa)?"

So said scriptwriter Bibeth Orteza, who was among the show biz personalities who fondly remember the slain award-winning actress at the wake Thursday night at the White Plains Chapel in Quezon City.

Orteza came to the wake with her director-husband Carlitos Siguion-Reyna.

"My generation will always remember Nida dancing the boogie with Nestor," Orteza told the INQUIRER.

"I also know she loved her garden so much. Can you ever look at a plant without thinking of her?"

Outside the small crowded chapel,

WHO CAN LISTEN/A21

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DENR: Transfer oil depot to Pasig City

(From page A19)

age facilities in only six months. Our brothers in Manila should consider the security risks."

Earlier, the Manila city council declared Alvarez persona non grata in Manila for allegedly siding with the oil companies in the phaseout of the Pandacan oil depot.

But Alvarez clarified that he was only against the hasty phaseout of the oil facilities in Pandacan.

He said the oil companies would need a new location that would allow them to reconnect their current pipelines and cut their costs in relocating and building new facilities.

Alvarez said he is willing to have new dialogues with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to resolve their differences over the oil depot phaseout and the Mehan Garden issue.

But Alvarez had slapped the Manila city council a P3.1 million fine for continuing the construction of a parking facility on Mehan Garden.

Petron Corp., one of the operators of the Pandacan oil depot, said earlier that the relocation of the oil facilities would not affect the country's oil supply if they would be given enough time to move out.

The move would take at least five years, said Jose Campos, Petron vice president for supply and operations.

Campos said that if the government decided to boot the oil depots out of Pandacan, it should give Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. a "realistic" schedule.

"Five years is already tight," Campos said in a news briefing. "If we have less than that, the relocation might be done haphazardly and the continuity of supply might be adversely affected."

He said moving the oil depots would cost some P3 billion, excluding the costs of acquiring new sites and building new terminals.

The Manila city government has discounted a compromise on its stand that the phaseout should take place in six months.

"There will be no compromise," Atienza said. "(The depot) has to go in six months because what is at stake here are the lives of Manileños, especially those living in the area."

Atienza had warned that the city would not renew the business licenses and permits of the three big oil firms using the fuel storage facility.

Napolcom rejects Mendoza request for guns

By Alcuin Papa

THE PROCUREMENT of 11,000 new guns for the Philippine National Police hit a snag yesterday after National Police Commission (Napolcom) officials denied request by PNP chief Leandro Mendoza for more guns for policemen.

In a Sept. 24 letter to Interior and Local Government Secretary and Napolcom chair Joey Lina, Napolcom vice chair Rogelio Pureza rejected Mendoza's request for 10,967 9-mm Beretta guns from Italian manufacturer Fabrica D'Armi Pietro Beretta SPA, due to objections over procurement procedures.

Pureza said Napolcom officials during the previous administration recommended the 9-mm Vektor model distributed by Saphil Tech after a six-month evaluation period "based on price and performance" and on the recommendation of a PNP committee.

However, the Napolcom's recommendation was denied by then PNP chief Panfilo Lacson allegedly because the committee failed to comply with "his standards," Pureza said. Lacson then created a special pre-qualifications, bids and awards committee (SPBAC) which eventually changed the recommendation to the 9mm Beretta guns.

Pureza said Lacson's creation of the SPBAC was "arbitrary and capricious" and that he could not "find any sign of irregularity or anomaly that will cast doubt on the legality of the bidding process (of the regular PBAC)."

'Christmas Gallery 2'

"CHRISTMAS Gallery 2" opens today at the Makati Sports Club starting at 9 a.m.

It is where you can find not just celebrity shoppers but also celebrity vendors, including Chiqui Hollman-Yulo, Mutya Laxa and socialite Mandy de la Rama-Santos.

"Christmas Gallery I" was held on Nov. 3 at the same venue. The series is part of "Six Superb Shopping Saturdays" that began Oct. 27 and ends Dec. 1.

"Christmas Gallery 2" features items for the whole family, including clothes for kids and adults, shoes and bags, novelty and gift items, Christmas and home décor and food.

For more information, call 671-2493, 671-2497 or (0917) 526-4812, or log on to *www.pinoycentral.com;* look for Buyer's Guide and Food sections.

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MISS ASIA PACIFIC
Some of the 19 candidates in the Miss Asia Pacific Quest 2001 were recently treated to dinner at the Italian restaurant Benissimo at SM Manila, where they were entertained by Benissimo senior vice president Jay Limtong (left). The beauty pageant's coronation night is at 9 p.m. at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

4 in power pilferage

FOUR people were recently sentenced by different courts for violation of Republic Act No. 7832, the Anti-Electricity Pilferage Law.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 7 Judge Enrico Lanzanas convicted Rosendo Esmediana and Elmer So of Felix Huertas Street for illegally connecting their service to a Meralco junction box, said a Meralco statement. Policemen from Camp Crame arrested the two men who they said were caught in the act.

Also sentenced in Manila was Imelda Gierza of Parola Compound, Tondo, who was arrested during a special police operation in coordination with Meralco.

RTC Branch 12 Judge Rosmari Carandang found Gierza guilty of obtaining electricity from an illegal connection.

PAOCTF funds invested in Jollibee

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez called me up to say my item on Tuesday, Nov. 6, was terribly unfair to him.

According to Perez, there can't be an "Ateneo mafia" in the DOJ because—of the 18 members of his staff—only two are Ateneo graduates.

He wonders why his detractors have capitalized on his stint as a professor at the prestigious Ateneo University College of Law in the past years as a platform for criticism. Being from the Ateneo should be a badge of merit, instead of a symbol of shame.

* * *

Perez says there is no one who can ever accuse him of having sanctioned, much less promoted a fix on any pending matter at the DOJ. For example, he says, the plunder case against ex-President Erap originated from the DOJ.

In fact, the justice secretary points out, was he not personally involved in all major investigations being made against allegedly corrupt officials such as Sen. Panfilo Lacson?

Most importantly, Perez says that even if I checked with all my sources at the DOJ, not a single one of them can possibly say that he has meddled in any pending investigation or has instructed an investigator on how to handle any pending case.

"Mon, my reputation is spotless, you can check this out, and you will pleasantly discover that other than politically motivated whisperings there is nothing bad about me. I am a good man and the DOJ has matured and has professionalized during my stewardship."

Amen.

* * *

Police Supt. Rafael Cardeno, who was reportedly involved in the destabilization of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration, has been punished by being transferred to Western Visayas. Cardeno was special assistant to retired Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, chief of the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

But was Cardeno really transferred?

Cardeno still reports to the LTO main office on East Avenue, Quezon City. He still uses two Cherokee jeeps assigned to him by the LTO. He still uses the third floor of the LTO main building as his command post where he allegedly holds meetings with a group of PNP officers identified with the Young Officers Union (YOU), according to my sources at the land transportation agency.

This means, Cardeno is still active in the destabilization moves with Abenina's blessings!

* * *

Another guy who was implicated in the destabilization plot against GMA is working for the National Anti-Crime Commission (NACC) which holds office inside Malacañang, according to intelligence sources.

This guy is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1978 who resigned from the military to join the Bureau of Customs.

Intelligence sources say the fellow is former director of the customs anti-narcotics unit, which is ironic because he is a confirmed user of shabu and cocaine.

Right now, the guy is asking to be given back his lucrative positions at the customs bureau.

GMA needs this guy like she needs a hole in the head.

* * *

Why doesn't the Ombudsman investigate Sen. Panfilo Lacson for using part of the funds of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) as capital for the Jollibee branch in Sucat, Parañaque?

I have documents showing that Lacson, Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Magtanggol Gatdula invested a total of P11,356,677.16 on Jollibee-Sucat.

The same documents also show that the PAOCTF put up P11,720,000 for the same branch. The PAOCTF, according to the documents, formed itself into the TF Corporation.

Ang kakapal ng mga mukha n'yo !

* * *

A vigilante group in Davao City has sent chills down the spines of the city's underworld.

The Davao City vigilantes are ruthless: they didn't spare even a teenage criminal who killed a student after snatching his cell phone.

The group tortured for days a man who raped and killed a coed of an exclusive girls' school in the city. The man died a very painful death. His photograph was scattered in crowded areas in Davao City with the inscription: "The fate suffered by this man awaits all rapists and drug dealers."

I know the leader of the vigilante group, but I won't identify him because he happens to be a friend. Besides, I agree with his method. And so do most of the city residents.

* * *

Felipe Antonio Remollo, lawyer for businessman Mike Coyiuto, owner of PGA Cars along Edsa, writes to clarify certain issues in this corner last Thursday.

Remollo says Coyiuto's car shop from where businessman Leonardo Umale bought two Porsche cars acted only as an intermediary between PGA Cars and two sellers, Jonas Silva and Anton Sy.

Sy and Anton, the lawyer says, imported the two cars and made PGA their sales agent.

"That's why Mr. Umale bought two factory-fresh cars, not second hand, as alleged by Mr. Umale," Remollo says. Both cars were brand-new and were never used by Silva and Sy, he adds.

Taxes and duties for the two Porsche cars were fully paid, Remollo says.

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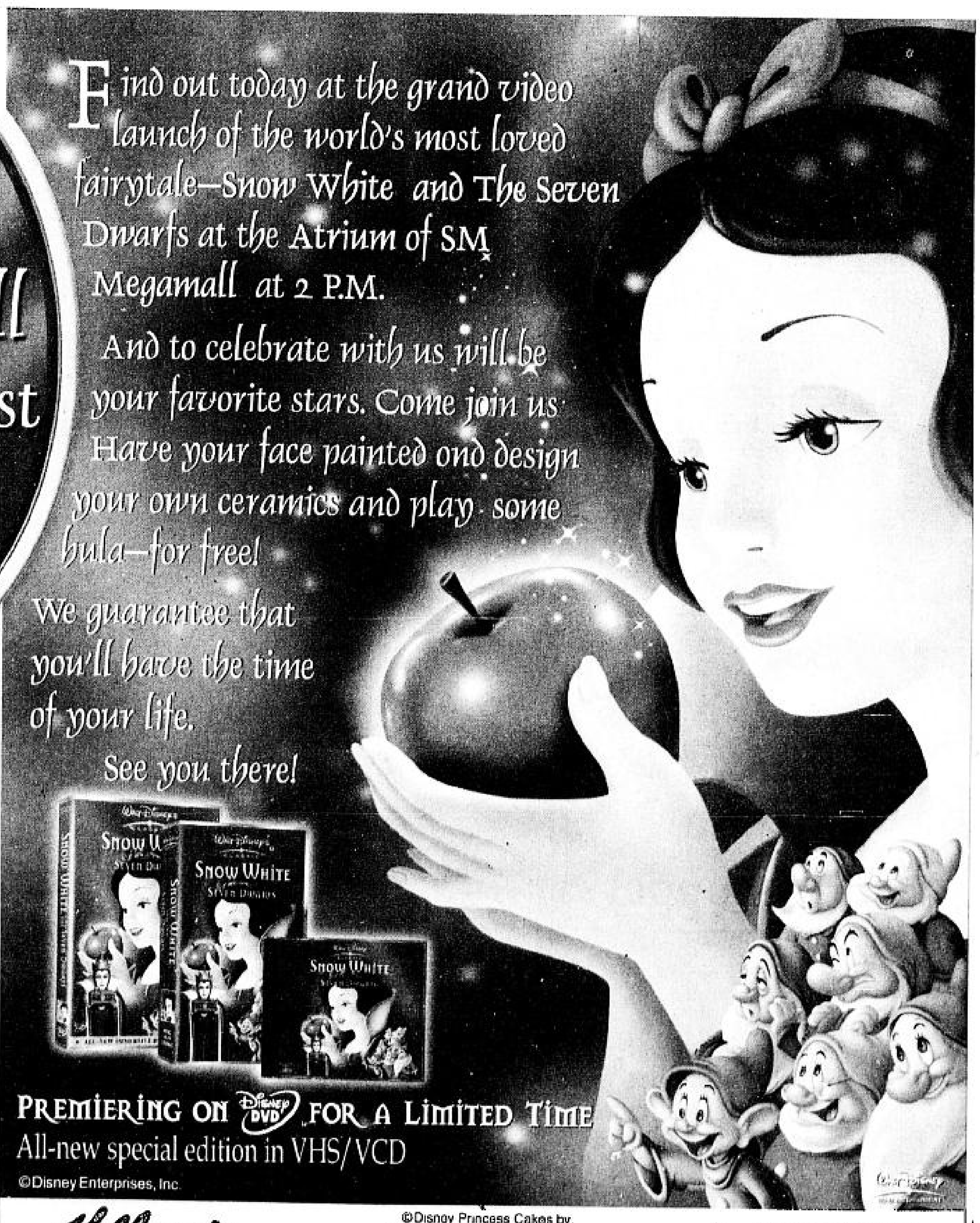
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‘Who can listen to boogie without thinking of Nida?’

(From page A19)

more people sat or stood in groups, including writers and directors. If a film is made of Nida Blanca's life, the directors asked among themselves, who would be the best choice to play the veteran actress?

Directors Mel Chionglo, Joey Reyes and Manny Castañeda and production designer-turned-line producer Tatus Aldana had a unanimous choice - Maricel Soriano.

“Maricel should play Nida,” Aldana said. “They're both good in comedy, drama, dancing and they both have a colorful life. We can't think of any better actress to star in the Nida film-bio.”

Both Blanca and Soriano starred in the long-running TV sitcom “John en Marsha,” where Soriano played the daughter of Blanca and ace comedian Dolphy.

Soriano and Blanca also went on to do a number of films together. Aside from the “John en Marsha” blockbusters, they played mother and daughter in “Anak ni Waray vs Anak ni Biday,” with Gloria Romero and Snooky Serna.

Soriano was also among the show business people who trooped to the White Plains Chapel.

Biography Book, musicals

Because Blanca had an illustrious show biz career, there were suggestions that a book should be written about her.

Countless show biz personalities continued to keep vigil at the chapel, day and night.

Even the country's giant networks, GMA 7 and ABS-CBN, both covered the wake, and their electronic news gathering (ENG) vans were positioned outside the chapel. The two networks air live remote feeds throughout the day.

Director Joey Reyes directed Blanca in such films as “Batang PX,” “Hataw Na,” “Minsan Lamang Magmahal” and “Yakapin Mo ang Umaga.”

He also directed her in the sitcom “Billy Bilyonaryo” (starring Chris de Venecia) and a Christmas TV special, “Ang Pasko sa Amin,” aired on GMA 7.

“In that special, Nida even sang with Agot Isidro and Cris Villonco,” Reyes said.

Fan

Chionglo admitted he had been a fan of Blanca since the actress' LVN days. He directed Blanca in the 1990 film “Hot Summer,” which featured an all-star cast including Gabby Concepcion, Alice Dixson, Maricel Laxa and Aga Muhlach.

“Nida and Helen Gamboa were given top-billing in that movie,” Chionglo recalled.

“Nida was a very good actress,” he added. “She was always ready and open to suggestions. You couldn't ask for anything more when she was your star.”

He also recalled that before he became a director, he went all the way to Villa Escudero in Laguna just so he could watch the filming of the Nida-Nestor movie, “Ikaw Kasi.”

“Actually, it was my sister, Margarita, who was Nida's number one fan,” Chionglo said. “I accompanied my sister all the way to Quezon and we watched the shooting of ‘Ikaw Kasi.’ We were both thrilled at seeing Nida on the set.”

Co-workers

When he finally got to direct Blanca, Chionglo found out how good an actress she was.

“She was very quiet on the set and had no complaints,” Chionglo said. “I can say that I got to know Nida completely because from being her fan, I became her director and later, we became co-workers at the censors board.”

Chionglo was a member of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) when actress-producer Armida Siguion-Reyna was its chair.

Blanca had been a member of the board since the time of MTRCB chair Manoling Morato all through the terms of other chairs such as Henrietta Mendez, Jess Sison, Siguion-Reyna, Nicanor Tiongson and Alejandro Roces, who is the present chair.

Intimidated

Tessie Tomas remembered that she shared a room with Blanca in San Francisco, during the 1983 US performance tour of “Kumustahan” for Filipino communities in the US.

“We were with a large group of artists sent by the government to perform for Filipino communities in America,” Tomas shared. “When I found out she was my room mate, I was initially intimidated. Siyempre, Nida Blanca ‘yan and I was just very new in show biz at that time.

“But she (Nida) turned out to be very down to earth. We had instant bonding in San Francisco. Since then, we had been in touch. Every time I would invite her to be a guest in my TV show, ‘Teysi ng Tahanan,’ she never said no. It was so easy to deal with her.”

Last films

Prior to her death, Blanca was a mainstay of the GMA sitcom, “Da De Di Do Doo,” where she played the witch grandmother of Danica Sotto and Maxine Magalona. The sitcom also stars Vic Sotto.

Blanca will be seen on the big screen in two new movies. She played a nun who was the aunt of Diether Ocampo's character in Maryo J. de los Reyes' “Ano Ba'ng Meron Ka?” and a fairy in the fantasy-comedy, “Pepay,” starring Jolina Magdangal.

Also at the the wake Thursday night were couples Rudy Fernandez and Lorna Tolentino, Eddie Gutierrez and Annabelle Rama, Snooky Serna and Ricardo Cepeda, as well as Delia Razon, Raquel Villavicencio, Pinky Amador, Marita Zobel,

Mila Ocampo, Smokey Manaloto and Vhong Navarro.

JOAN BONDOC

FORMER action star Tony Ferrer was among Nida Blanca's close friends who came to console her mother at the White Plains wake.

WIDOWER Rod Lauren Strunk's turn to console Nida's fellow award-winning actress and social worker Rosa Rosal.

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MOTHER and son-in-law at Nida's wake.

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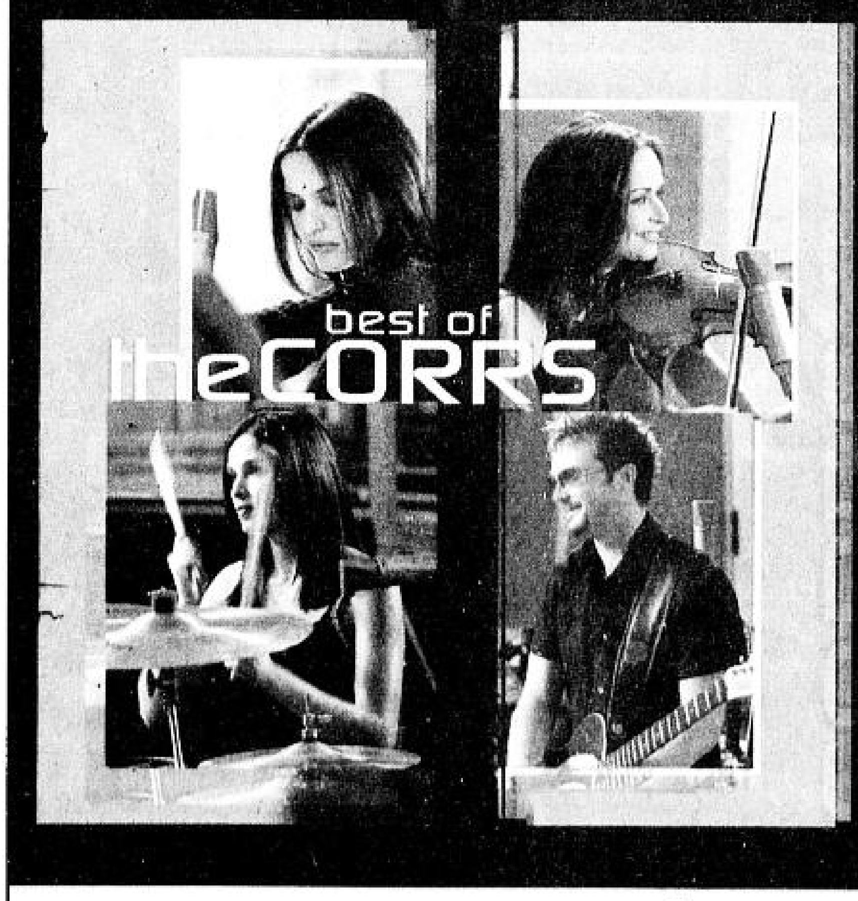

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‘Mixing garbage with politics will only worsen things’

Q&A

HIS province is right next to Metro Manila in the south, and Metro Manila's problems have also become the problems of Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, particularly garbage and traffic.

According to the 63-year-old former congressman, Cavite's 2,130,000 population makes it the most populous in Southern Tagalog. But, he adds, neighbors Laguna and Batangas have overtaken Cavite in terms of development. Now he and Cavite are trying to catch up.

How were your first 100 days?

Mostly, I determined the problems and I planned what to do in Cavite. As in construction, I took care of the foundations first. I met with different sectors and with the people so they would know what direction I would take in running the province. I found a lot of problems – garbage, drugs, floods in the low-lying areas, traffic, I met with businessmen before I took over the governor's office. They were almost crying because of the traffic.

Traffic is one of the problems I'm focusing on right now, particularly the extension of Coastal Road. A Malaysian firm was contracted, as early as the Ramos administration, to extend Coastal Road up to Noveleta. The financial crisis stopped the project. The Malaysian firm couldn't afford to continue the project so they sold the contract rights to the Coastal Road Corp.

If we don't build new roads inside Cavite, the traffic problem will remain despite the extension of Coastal Road or of LRT. I'm insisting on building something like the Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Quezon) expressway straight all the way to Tagaytay, at the boundary of Batangas province and Tagaytay City. I think it's a very viable project in light of the forthcoming opening of the international port in Batangas. So, instead of passing through the South Expressway, people from the western part of Batangas can use this expressway which will be shorter and wider.

We have a proposal, the busway system. It's a project of the Cavite-Laguna Transportation Development Authority. It will be 20 kilometers going south from Bacoor, all devoted to the busway – buses connected to each other and running on electricity so there will be no gas fumes. It's patterned after a system in Brazil.

I was still mayor when the busway feasibility study was done. Hopefully, it will come true. The cost of its first phase was in Japan's 25th yen loan to the Philippines. The JICA people are here to inspect. The final phase of the project will surely be included in the 26th yen loan.

What is your vision for Cavite?

I would like the people of Cavite to be proud of their province. Cavite is a historical province. It would be a waste if Cavite's role in winning independence for the country would be lost and forgotten.

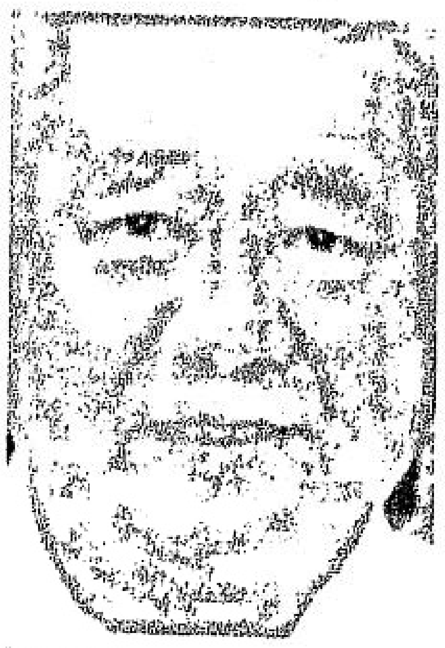
Philippine independence was born in Cavite. The republic's first president was from Cavite, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. It was also Aguinaldo who had the Philippine flag made, in Hong Kong. A Caviteño, Prof. Julian Felipe of Cavite City, created the national anthem.

I always tell the people in Cavite not to forget our role in history and to let it be a challenge so that we would be known and recognized.

I tell the people of Cavite that we have natural advantages. Cavite is right beside Metro Manila. Our shoreline is very long. We have mountains, we have plains. We have good upland weather and the soil is rich. The province has one of the highest literacy rates in the country.

Let's talk about trash.

We in Cavite say that garbage alone is already a controversial issue. When you mix it with politics, it will only worsen the problem. Former officials made it worse. They always said that the air should be clean, that our water should not be poisoned, that we should have no traffic problems, that the garbage of Metro Manila should not be dumped in Cavite. The problem is, they did not offer solutions, so the rivers became dumps, and so did streets and open spaces.



MALIKSI

We conducted workshops, where we learned that more than 90 percent of the people favored the use of a landfill that would accommodate only Cavite's garbage. I've received many landfill proposals but the technology is very expensive.

When I was in the US, we visited the landfill in Maryland which was built 10 years ago at a cost of $200 million. We visited the Long Beach incinerator in California, built 11 years ago at a cost of $175 million. That's why I couldn't accept the landfill proposals.

There's a Taiwanese proposal that we're considering. It would be viable even if only Cavite garbage, about 1,000 metric tons daily, would be accommodated. We visited the Taiwan facility recently.

I am in favor of a system that would benefit the majority, even if it would hurt a few people in the process, or even affect the environment a little. I will do the

MIXING/A25

Recycling non-biodegradables

By Joey Papa
Contributor

HAND in hand with the composting of biodegradable waste is the recycling of non-biodegradable waste.

Composting, according to the "Zero Waste Technology Handbook" by Luz E. Sabas, is "biological degradation under controlled conditions; the process of making biodegradable (items) such as food, garden, animal and human waste into compost by mixing them with soil, water, biological additives/activators (optional), and air."

Recycling is the "re-use, retrieval, recommissioning of element/matter for any and all purposes necessary to healthful and productive living."

Sabas also calls recycling *"pagbabalik-gamit."*

Total recycling of domestic wastes is their "full utilization . . . into 'factory returnables' (about 50-60 percent), feed (about 20 percent), fertilizer (about 30 percent), fuel, fine crafts, fermentables (such as biogas)."

Very little, if ever, is left for filling materials. These are the residuals, which certain groups use as the reason for their preference for hundreds of hectares of landfills or dumpsites or expensive and dangerous incinerators. But residuals could still be recycled given more advances in research.

Paper

John Aspinall, the president of a company providing wastepaper to Philippine paper mills for recycling into fresh paper, sent the author an e-mail qualifying the inclusion of dry paper and dry cardboard among the non-biodegradable items listed in this section on Oct. 20, because paper is biodegradable.

If the paper is dry, the Zero Waste Recycling Movement considers it "conditionally non-biodegradable" and it is best to recycle it. If the paper is wet and clean, it can still be dried for recycling. Soiled, wet paper is composted.

Other "conditionally non-biodegradable" materials are fiber, cloth, hair, feather, leather, skin, hides, bones, shell, ceramics, rocks, and post-construction forest products such as wood, rattan, bamboo.

"Unconditionally non-biodegradable" materials are those

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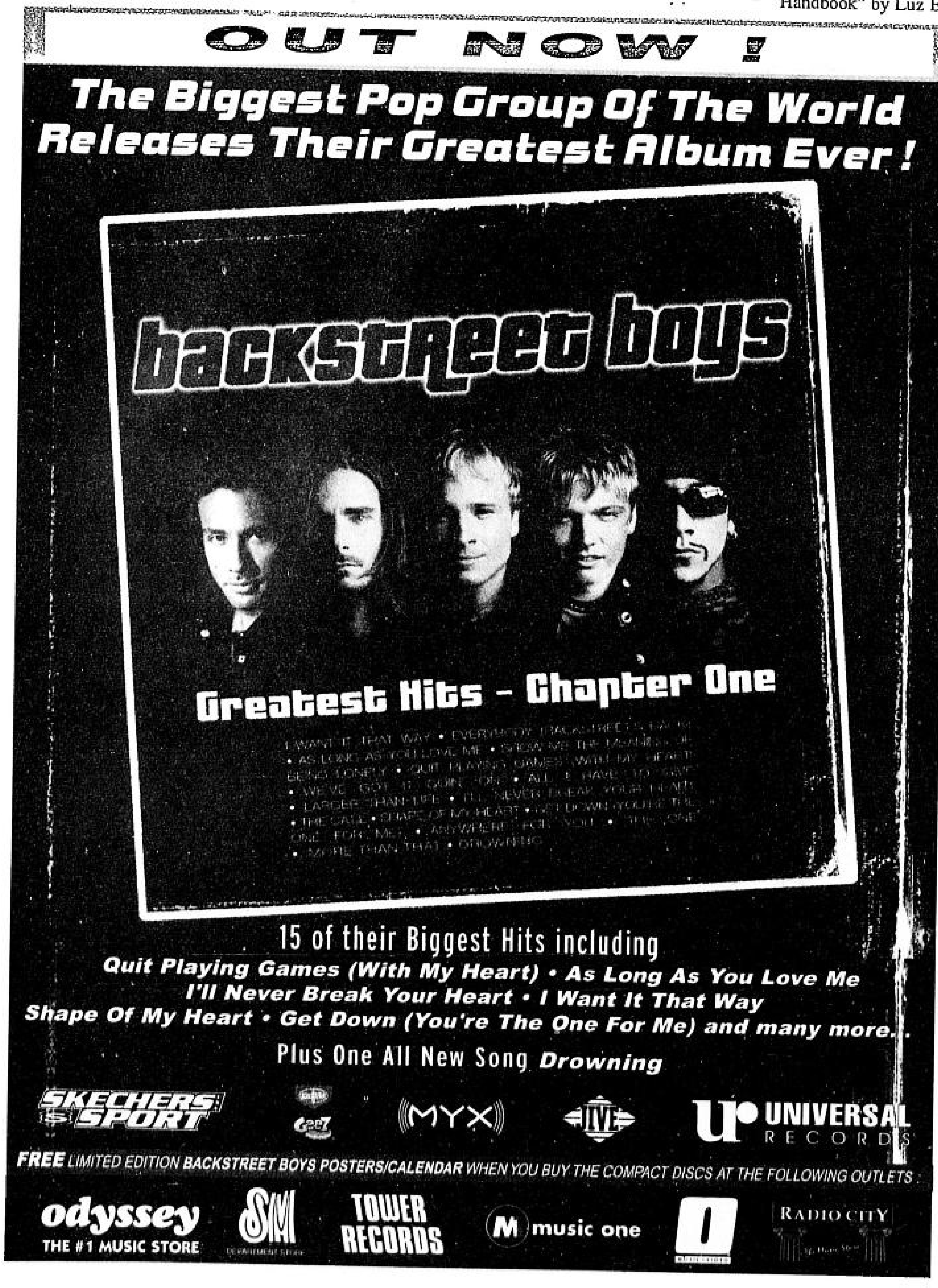

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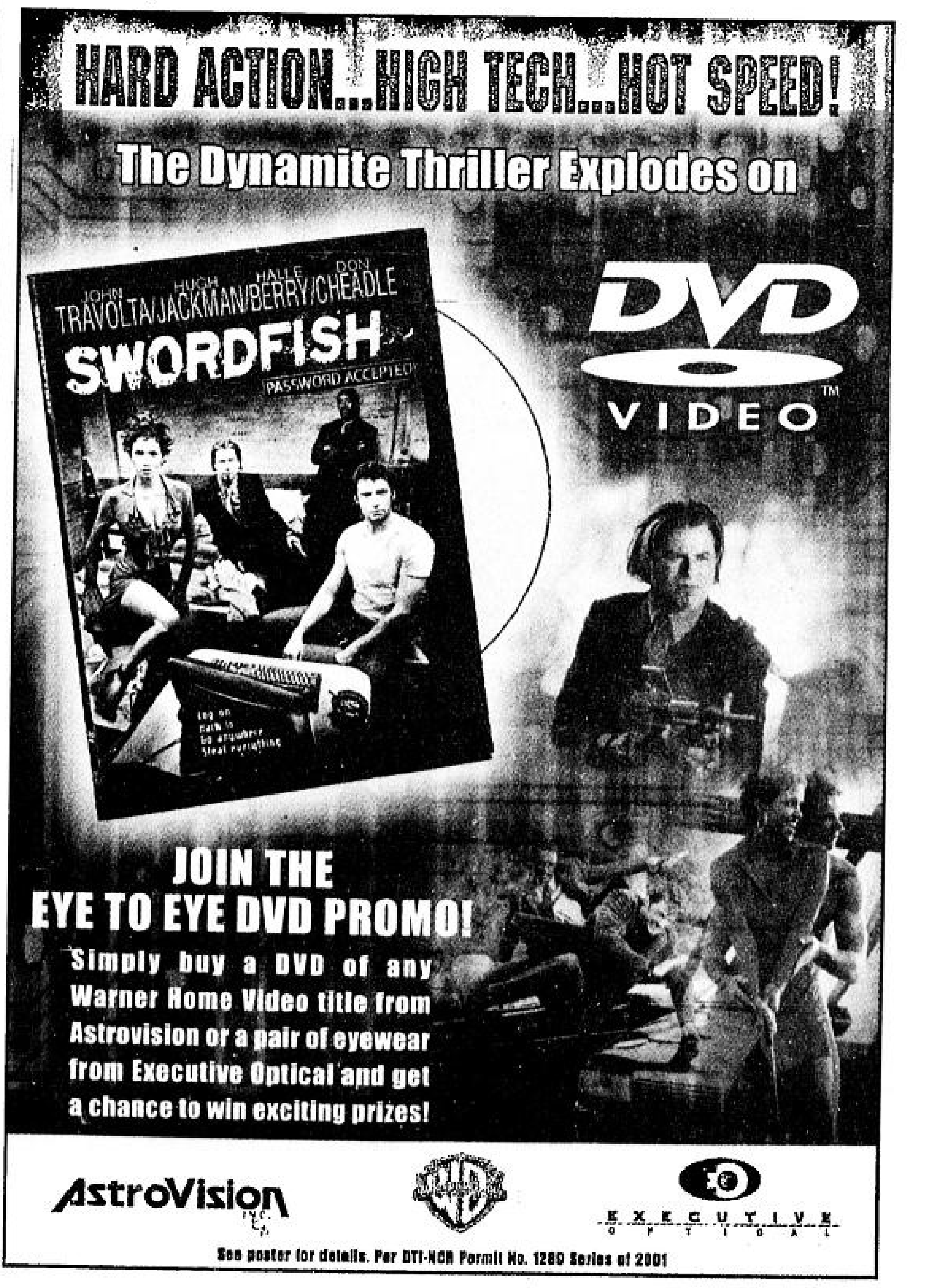

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Munti curfew to keep youths away from drugs

THE MUNTINLUPA local government will implement a curfew from 12 p.m. to 4 a.m. for youths 17 years old and below to solve the growing drug menace in the city, Mayor Jaime Fresnedi yesterday told the INQUIRER.

The proposal would be implemented early next year, Fresnedi said.

Violators would be detained in holding centers and would be required to do community service, the mayor said.

The city government was apparently alarmed by a report by the National Drug Enforcement and Prevention Center which considered Muntinlupa "critical as far as the drug problem is concerned…(since) all communities are having a number of drug dependents and pushers," according to a statement.

Fresnedi also feared that many residents aged between 15 and 30 might be hooked on illegal drugs.

"The curfew is needed to preserve the public peace," public information officer Tez Valencia said in a statement.

Minors who need to go home during curfew hours because of school projects would be exempted from the curfew.

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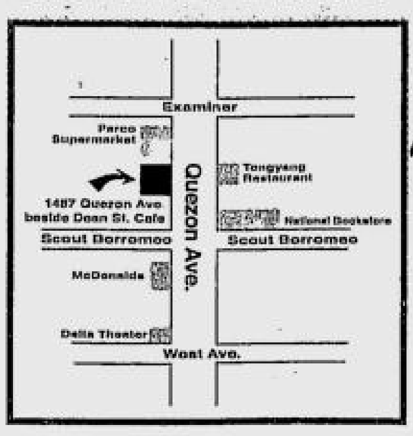
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2 (DTS)	THE ONE

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1	CLOSED

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	TRIP
2	ROSARIO 18
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(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	DOS EKIS
2	TRIP
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	HOLE

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	TRAINING DAY
2	ROSARIO 18
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4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	AMERICAN PIE 2
7	TRAINING DAY
8	LEGALLY BLONDE
9	DOWN TO EARTH
10	GHOST OF MARS

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	TRIP
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	THE ONE
2	TRIP
3	TRIP
4	THE ONE
5	JEEPERS CREEPERS
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	DON'T SAY A WORD
8	THE ONE

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2	TRIP
3	JEEPERS CREEPERS
4	DON'T SAY A WORD
5	GHOST OF MARS
6	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

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1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	TRAINING DAY
3	DOS EKIS
4	GHOST OF MARS
5	THE BODY
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SCORPIO NIGHTS 2 / NIGHT JOB
ODEON	THE ONE
ODEON-2	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
ROBEN	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KISS OF THE DRAGON / SPOT

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
REMAR-2	SAKIM SA PAG IBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	TRIP
B	THE ONE
C	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL
CINEMA-2	THE ONE

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	KAMO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	GHOST OF MARS
CINEMA-6	HIYAS
CINEMA-7	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-8	TRIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE ONE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE ONE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-12	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-14	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-15	TRIP

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	DOWN TO EARTH
CINEMA-2	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-3	LEGALLY BLONDE
CINEMA-4	DON'T SAY A WORD
CINEMA-5	TRAINING DAY
CINEMA-6	THE ONE

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

METROBRIEFS

5 minutes

EIGHT armed men pulled off a five-minute heist in Trinity College, Quezon City Thursday night and carted away about P1 million in cash. Witnesses told Central Police District investigators that the suspects, all armed with handguns, were in and out of the school's finance office in less than five minutes. The suspects entered Trinity College on E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard near St. Luke's Medical Center and disarmed the lone security guard Bartolome Botial about 6:08 p.m., PO2 Joseph Dino said. At the finance office, the suspects announced the heist and, at gunpoint, ordered the school's cashier, Teodolo Pausanos, to open the vault and cash register box. Then the eight men fled on board a Toyota van (WRU 110). School officials refused to comment on the incident. Investigators believed the group belonged to a big robbery syndicate operating in Metro Manila. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Inconsistent

NOLITO LASIN claimed that two men robbed him of some P200,000 in cash in Valenzuela Thursday night, shortly after he withdrew the money from an Equitable-PCIBank automated teller machine. But police are not buying the story and noted inconsistencies in Lasin's claim. Lasin, an employee of a canteen near the Maynilad Water Services compound in Valenzuela, told police that the "suspects" did not bother to get the ATM cards and other valuables in the victim's possession. Lasin, 45, of Pineapple Road, Malabon, withdrew the money using at least 30 ATM cards belonging to Maynilad employees who owed the canteen. It was learned that Maynilad employees had just received their 13th month pay. Lasin told police that when he stepped out of the ATM booth on MacArthur Highway, Karuhatan, two men on a motorcycle held him up at knifepoint. The suspects ordered him to hand over the cash, returned the ATM cards to Lasin and fled, police said. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

2 slain

TWO suspected robbers were killed while another was injured in a shootout with Quezon City policemen Tuesday night. Central Police District investigators said Ronnie Tanhueco, 23, of Kaibigan Street, Batasan Hills, and Reynaldo Remegio, 38, of Lanao Street, Bago Bantay, Quezon City, were killed in the shootout. Renato Javier, 20, of Rizal Street, Ilang-ilang, Batasan, is now in critical condition at the Quezon City General Hospital. A team under Chief Insp. David Alawigan, of the CPD Baler Station, were on patrol on Quezon Avenue near the Philippine Children's Medical Center about 6 p.m., when they spotted the suspects robbing taxi driver Celedonio Caimen, 42. Caimen said that when he saw the policemen on patrol, he switched on his vehicle's hazard lights to attract their attention. When the policemen approached the taxi, one of the suspects fired at them with a .38-caliber pistol, triggering the shootout, police said. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Run over

THE five-year-old son of barangay councilman Reynaldo Pangilinan was killed when a truck ran over him Tuesday night in front of their house on Baltazar Street, Caloocan. According to investigators, victim Jerome Pangilinan was standing in front of a store just a few meters away from his residence when the truck hit him. Jerome's body was crushed under the weight of the Isuzu Elf (UPL 421) about 8 p.m. last Tuesday. *A. Trinidad-Echavez*

'Mixing . . .

(From page A22)

right thing, even if people get mad at me.

Why was it reported that you went to the United States with Sen. Panfilo Lacson?

I myself was wondering how that came to be reported. Maybe it was miscommunication.

I don't deny that Ping is a friend of mine. He's not only a close friend, he's also a provincemate. But we have not been seeing each other since I've been busy with Cavite. I haven't been able to rest and I feel I've been governor for a long time.

We were in New York on Sept. 4 with two other Calabarzon governors. Senator Lacson left Manila after the Senate sessions. Was that Sept. 7?

It is said that it is very easy to buy illegal drugs in Cavite.

It's been said that in some parts of Cavite, it's like buying candy. The peace and order council that I activated is addressing that problem. Building rehabilitation centers for drug abusers is also a component of our drug fight.

The rehab center in Tagaytay City is run by the National Bureau of Investigation. I'd like to build another one for the province. The study said it would be very expensive, so we'll build a small one in Tejeros.

My stance on drugs is hard. I will not compromise when it comes to drugs. Walang are-areglo sa akin, kahit na sino pang meyor and lumakad.

Can the people of Cavite go straight to you to tell you their problems?

I entertain all classes of people who come to my office. I am a simple man in all things, in deed, in clothes, in food. Maybe that's why people find me approachable. I see to it that I accommodate all the people who want to see me, so I often have to stay in my office until evening.

I want to raise the people's standard of living. I know how they feel. I came from the poor. My father was a farmer and my mother sold vegetables in the market.

To my two children and one grandchild, I would like to leave a name they would be proud of, like the name I inherited from my forefather, Col. Hipolito Saquilayan, on my mother's side. He led the Battle of Alapan in Imus on May 28, 1888, where Filipino fighters captured about 600 Spaniards.

Lcc

Recycling . . .

(From page A22)

made of metal, glass, plastic, rubber, bonded blended composites such as those used in juice packaging.

Food, feed

There are also biodegradable materials that would also be good for recycling. These are food and farm wastes that can further be recycled into food, feed, fuel, fertilizer, and other products.

Ofel Panganiban uses fruit peelings in making vinegar, and she turns banana peelings into banaburgers, banaghetti, banadobo, banafritada, banabuchi, and many more.

Ofel promotes banana peeling not only because it is an inexpensive food substitute in these hard times but also because it is said to be more nutritious than the fruit itself.

Other leftovers can be used for animal feeds.

Twigs, branches, stalks, roots, leaves, husks cobs, shells, sawdust, shavings, soiled paper or cardboard can be used in energy-saving stoves. All organic matter can be used in biogas-fed devices. Seeds can be collected for seedling banks, seed exchange, seedcraft, herbal medicine and herbal pesticides.

Recycled waste

The following are some examples of recyclable and recycled items: used oil into soap, waste paper into newsprint for newspapers or decorative materials, plastic bags into floor wax or ropes, broken glass into glass craft; metal, wood, rubber, feather, cloth, bones, shells into different kinds of crafts; hospital waste such as tubing for intravenous injections for drip-dry irrigation; toxic waste into additives for asphalt and other technologies for pavements, boulders, walling, etc.

Continuing research and development will surely yield many other possible uses of waste materials.

Re-using or re-commissioning clean and dry non-biodegradable waste resources includes selling these to factories or donating them to beneficiary groups

such as the disabled or disadvantaged who can use the materials for livelihood purposes.

More factories using recycled materials will greatly reduce the need to extract raw materials directly from the environment, thus preserving our fast-dwindling natural resources. This can also reduce importation of materials needed for manufacturing certain products and save us our precious foreign exchange reserves.

(The author may be reached at bangon_kalikasan@skyinet.net.

Police errand boy gets life for raping detainee

A MANILA regional trial court sentenced to life imprisonment a police substation errand boy for raping a woman who was arrested for vagrancy with her husband at the Rizal Park five years ago.

Judge Luis Arranz of the Manila RTC Branch 11 also ordered Rogelio Talavera to pay the victim P100,000 in moral and actual damages.

The court said it failed to find any aggravating circumstances that would have upgraded Talavera's sentence to death.

Three PCP members, Police Officers 3 Alberto Trajano, Rico Suarez and Godofredo Bautista, were charged as accomplices but are still at large. Charges against a fourth policeman, SPO3 Rolando Mendoza, were withdrawn.

Judge Arranz described as "not worthy of belief" the defendant's contention that what happened between him and the victim was consensual sex in exchange for the release of her husband.

Jerome Aning

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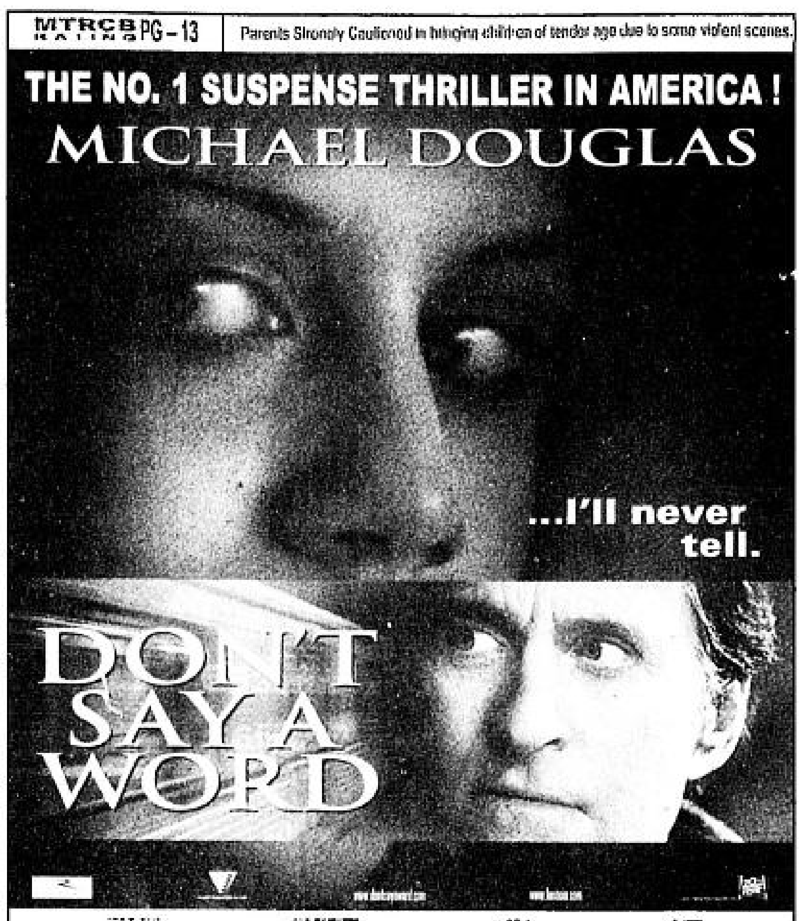
DON'T SAY A WORD - P 13 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40	TRAINING DAY - R 18 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	THE ONE - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

MTRCB RATING PG - 13
Parents Strongly Cautioned in bringing children of tender age due to some violent scenes.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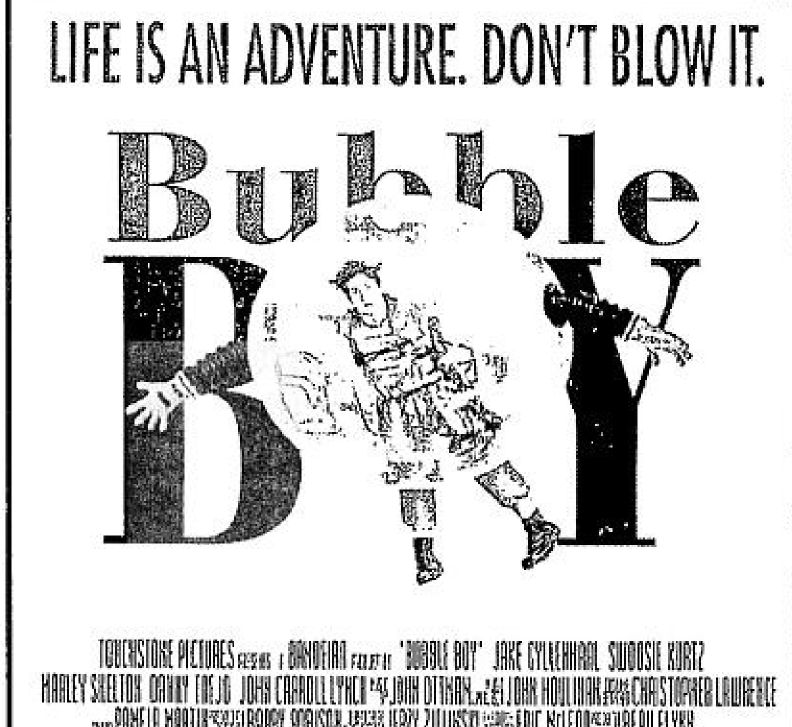
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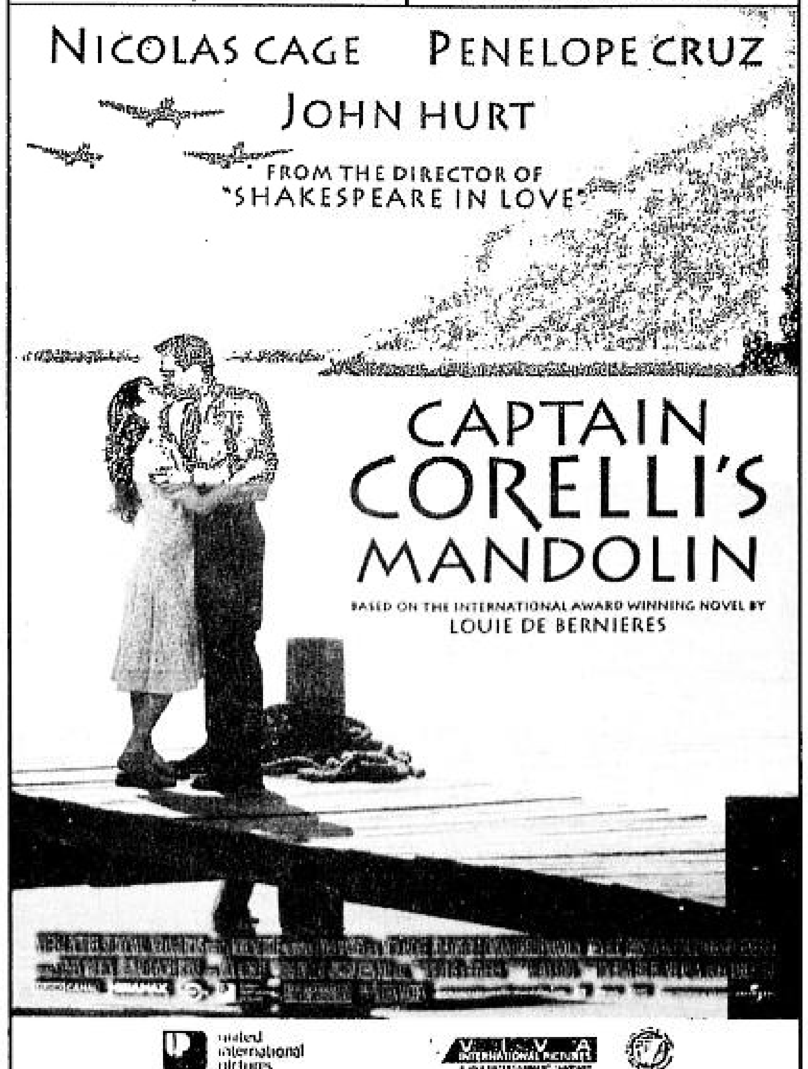
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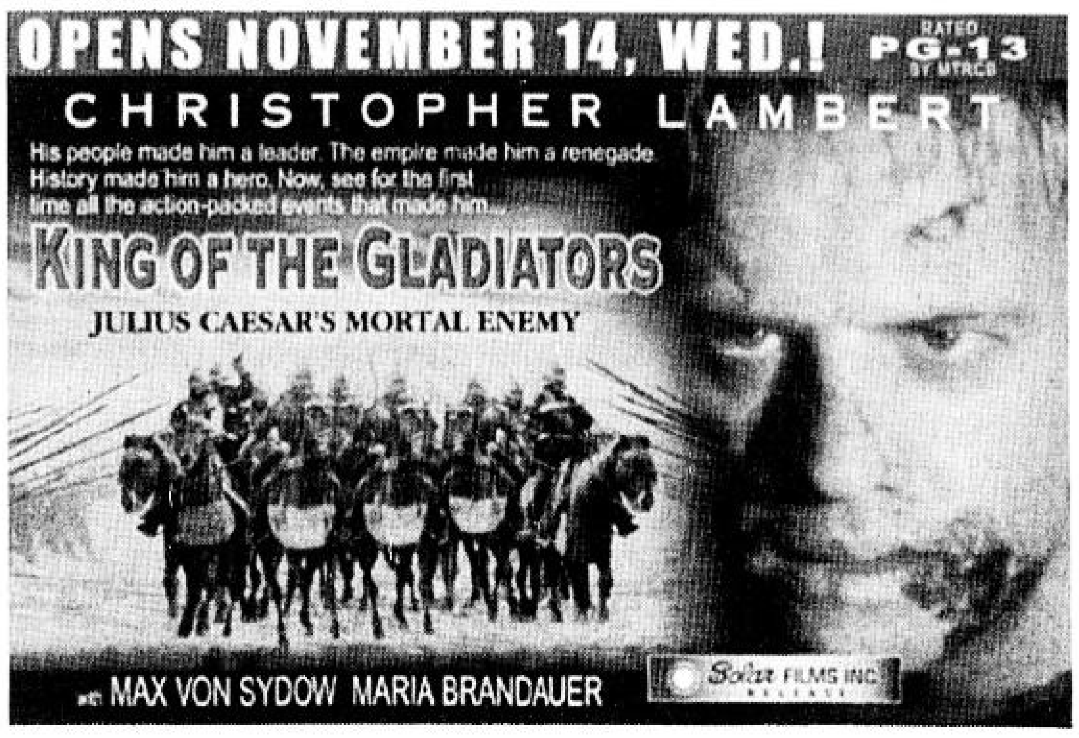
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BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1998, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSÉ LUIS CUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieres, Amor?.

Language: Spanish with English subtitles

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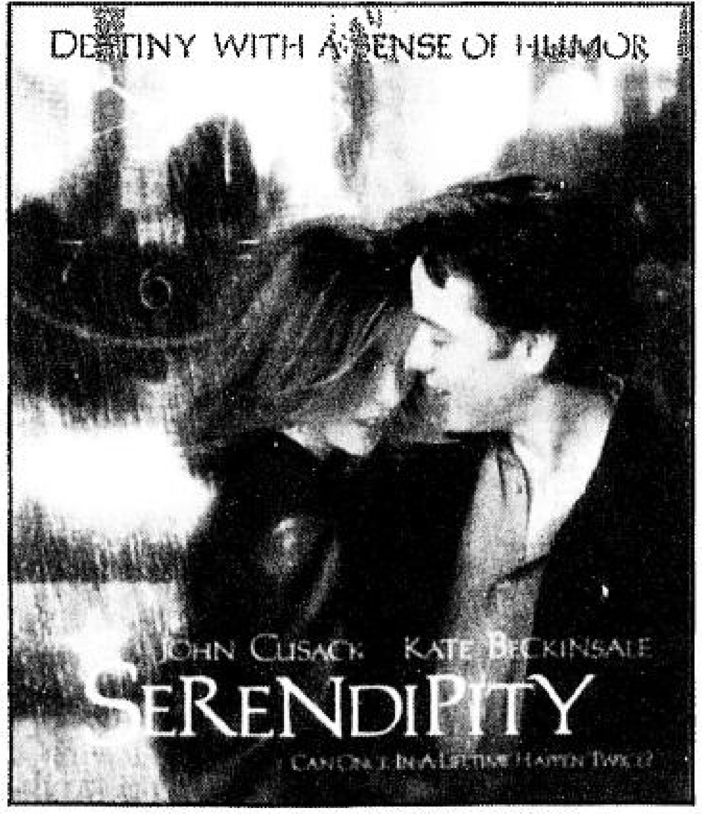
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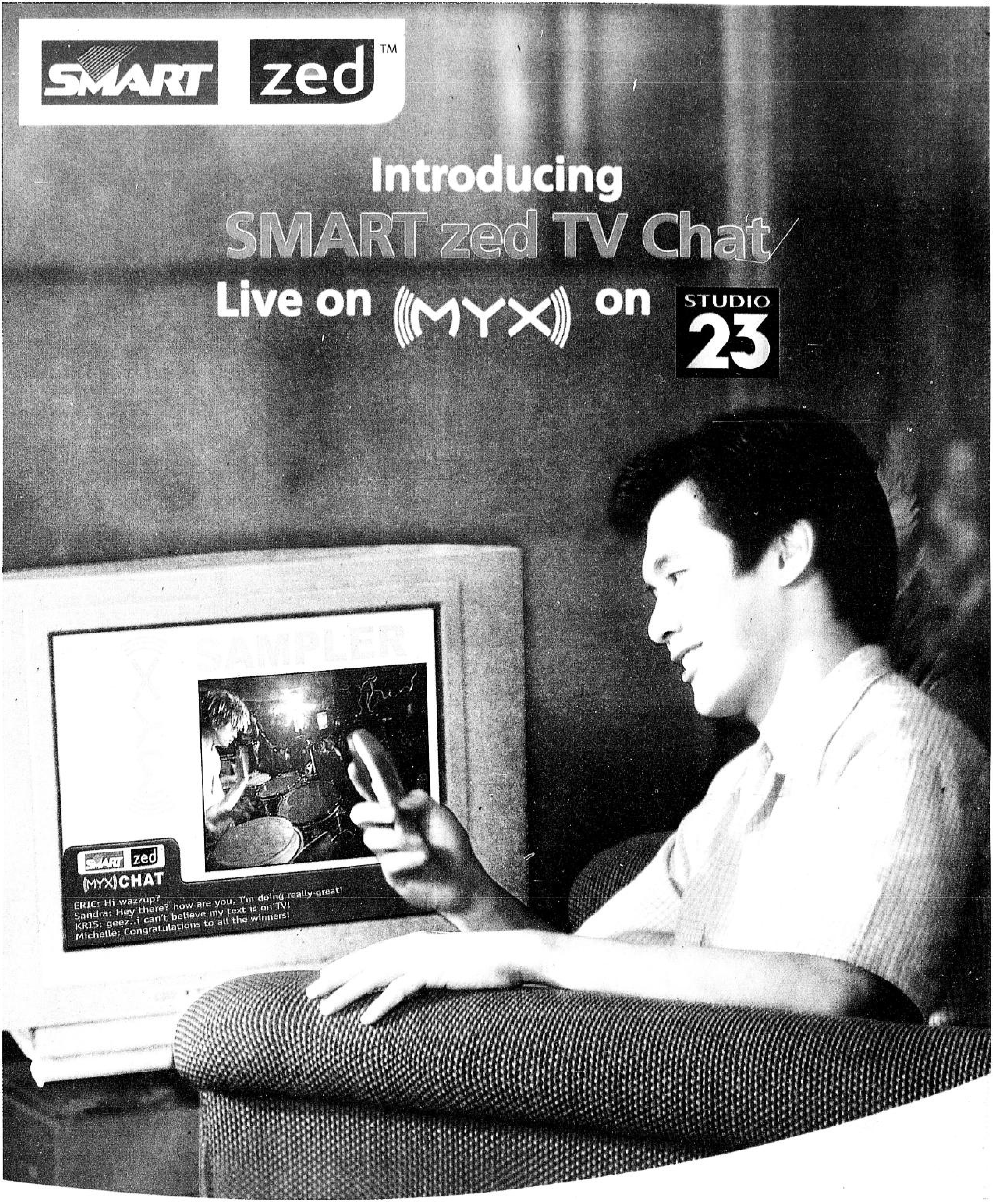

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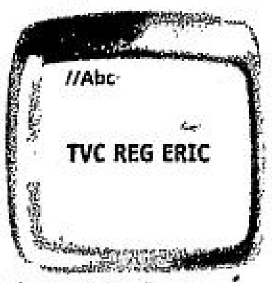
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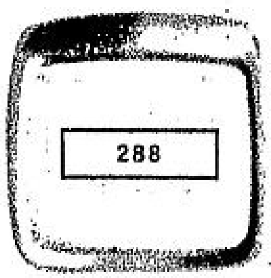
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BUSINESS

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ADB lowers RP growth forecast

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE ASIAN Development Bank has downscaled its economic growth forecasts for the Philippines for this year and next due to the sharper-than-expected global slowdown that was further aggravated by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

It said economic growth would fall to 2.7 percent this year amid a global slowdown and uncertainty following the terror attacks on the United States.

It added that GDP growth next year would come in at 3 percent, lower than the bank's earlier forecast of 4.2 percent.

The projected slowdown from 4 percent last year stemmed from dwindling exports and lower government spending as the country tries to rein in a fiscal deficit estimated at 4 percent of gross domestic product this year, the bank said in its 2001 economic outlook released here.

"The global economic slowdown has led to a sharp decline in exports, although relatively robust domestic demand has partially offset this fall in the Philippines," the bank said.

"GDP growth over the rest of the year is likely to be weighed down by continued external sector weakness. Decisive measures are needed to improve public finances if growth is to be sustained in the medium term," it stressed.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy in a given period. Gross national product is GDP plus remittances from overseas workers and other net factor income from abroad.

In April, the international lending institution predicted a 3.1-percent growth for the Philippines this year. The updated report dropped the forecast in light of worse-than-expected global economic performance and the Sept. 11 attacks.

The updated forecast is below the government's projection of at least 3.3 percent GDP growth for this year and 4.3-4.8 percent for 2002 but in line with those of many private economists.

The ADB predicted Philippine exports would drop sharply this year as the United States—the country's main export market—slows buying.

The ADB forecast inflation averaging 6.3 percent in 2001 provided oil prices don't spike in the fourth quarter.

Inflation in the 10 months to October averaged 6.5 percent. The government's full-year inflation target is 6 percent to 7 percent.

For 2001, the ADB said GDP growth was likely to pick up to about 3 percent on the back of an anticipated recovery in global growth.

"Although domestic demand will remain relatively robust, government consumption will slow in line with a planned reduction in the fiscal deficit," it noted.

The bank noted that in the first semester of this year when the country's GDP grew by 3.3 percent, the weakness in net exports had somehow been offset by a pick-up in public investment due to considerably higher government spending on construction activity as well as by the continued steady growth in private consumption due to higher agricultural incomes.

"Fiscal and monetary policies will be used to support domestic economic activity, but a large public debt burden, relatively high inflation and exchange rate volatility constrain the extent to which counter-cyclical policies can be used to stimulate domestic demand," the report said.

After two years of budget deficits exceeding P100 billion, the report noted that the government has committed itself to a deficit-reduction program which aims at a balanced budget by 2006.

The report also said the country's current account surplus would likely narrow to 4.9 percent of GDP this year or much weaker than the earlier forecast of 8 percent "due to a smaller trade surplus, reduced number of tourists due to security concerns, lower worker remittances and higher net interest payments."

RP taps 5 banks for $225-M bond float

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday gave the mandate to Deutsche Bank, Salomon Smith Barney and UBS Warburg to manage a five-year Euro bond issue equivalent to at least $225 million on behalf of the cash-strapped National Power Corp.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Euro bonds would be launched this month through a roadshow in major financial cities in Europe.

Camacho said the government has also appointed JP Morgan Chase and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter as co-managers for the transaction.

He clarified that the investment banks did not offer a firm commitment to underwrite the issue but would only handle initially the book-building or the solicitation of investment offers as opposed to a fully committed underwriting that guarantees the government the money even if investors would not be interested in buying the bonds.

Camacho also announced that the government has deferred indefinitely its plan to issue this year Singapore bonds equivalent to as much as $287 million.

The finance chief said there was a good chance that the government could raise more than 250 million Euros from the bond offer. The proceeds, he said, would cover part of Napocor's $530-million funding requirement this year.

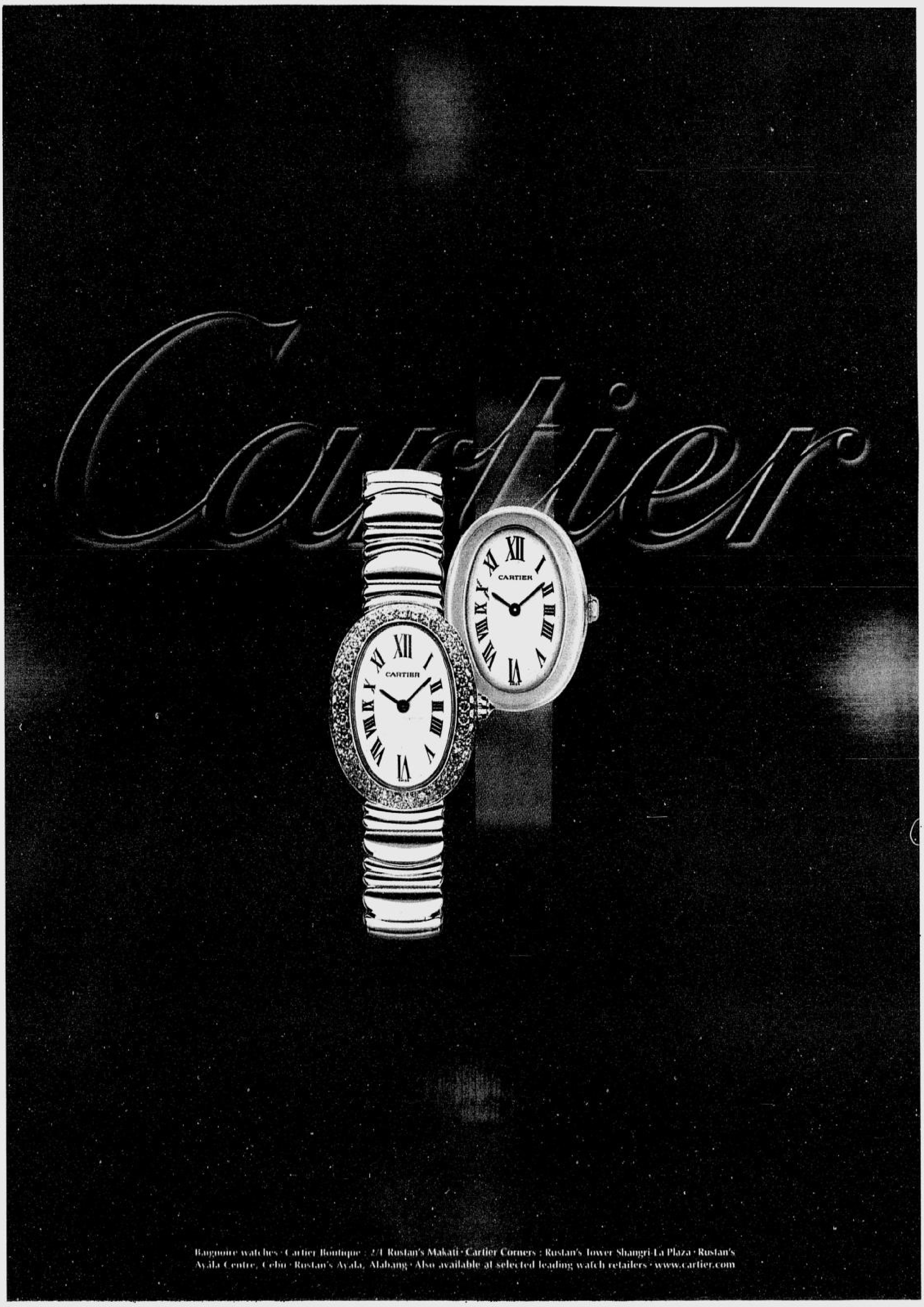
"Napocor is also looking at its own borrowings. It does not need to raise $530 million anymore this year because some of its requirements could be deferred for next year," the finance secretary said.

The state-owned power firm needs about $1 billion in loans next year to pay its maturing obligations and finance its costly operating and capital expenses.

Camacho explained that the government had decided to borrow funds on behalf of Napocor because it would be cheaper by about half-a-percentage point than if the power firm were to borrow the money directly.

He said the lead managers for the Euro bond issue would de-

RP/ B3



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Make a whiz

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, a.k.a. the Whiz, is applying a little magic in solving his budget deficit problem. He is gambling with the casinos.

The state gaming company Pagcor is going to issue P15 billion worth of bonds. Pagcor then buys land from the state company Public Estates Authority, or the PEA.

The PEA then remits the money to the treasury as a one-time revenue bonanza. Bingo! This cute administration stays within its ceiling on the budget deficit.

That's being, er, "creative" for you. Well, the Whiz is an investment banker. Among money men, investment bankers are the closest to being "artists."

Actually, it's all just the Whiz, using his fast hands, putting money from the right pocket to the left pocket. Like in magic, the Whiz only makes use of illusion.

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Guess what—Pagcor will have to pay for the bonds from out of its future income. In effect, in the future, the government's share in Pagcor earnings will be a lot less.

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We need reforms. The government must have permanent sources of revenues. "Recurring," I think, is how creative bankers like the Whiz like to call it.

Only one thing is "recurring" in that magical borrowing scheme which uses the poor Pagcor. And that is, we just keep getting deeper and deeper into debts.

You see, the borrowed money does not go to things like infrastructure, which can enhance the economy. Thus the government cannot ever hope to repay its debts.

It's simple really. The government must invest the loans in productive means. Why? So that it can get more revenues from the economic gains from its investments.

As it is, we have nothing to show for the debts. We incur budget deficits every year, and to cover for them, we have to borrow a lot of money, and all for what?

"Operating expense," I think, is how imaginative bankers like the Whiz like to call it. Meaning, it's all for just keeping the government running on one leg.

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ON the other hand, Pagcor can really become a money machine. In other countries, governments earn a lot of infrastructure money from gaming.

They are even rich countries. The United States, Australia, Italy, Japan, even Malaysia. Their governments make a lot of money out of gaming.

Alright, so Pagcor's chair and president Efraim Genuino is doing a wonderful job. Today, Pagcor is already remitting to the government about P750 million a month.

That's already about P9 billion a year. It's a big improvement from the previous years. Still, Pagcor can do much better.

Based on the most conservative of estimates, Pagcor can easily earn about P100 billion a year. It only has to steal away the business of all those gambling lords.

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They did not detect the troubles besetting the group. They still lent to it. Bankers have to cover their . . . well, some ugly body parts. Or they get it from their boards.

The best candidate for scapegoat of the month, of course, is the external auditor of Ramcar, which happens to be everybody's external auditor, none other than SGV.

The banks are saying that the group had liabilities of P8 billion, but the financial statements only showed liabilities of P4.5 billion. Burn the SGV alive!

Wait a minute, compadre, because SGV actually audits only five of those 40 companies in the group. SGV confirmed all the bank loans of those five companies.

In other words, a good part of the liabilities of the Agustines group, which the banks claim at P8 billion all in, was incurred by other companies not audited by SGV.

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NOW, the major companies in the group are those in battery making. Ramcar. Oriental and Motorlite. Oriental Yuasa. These companies were never in default.

Still, if you look at the footnotes to their financial statements, you will find all the disclosures which, the banks are now saying, were supposedly not made by SGV.

So far the reaction of the banks was only expected. As in any big account that turned bad, the banks are angry, at first, and then they are looking for a scapegoat.

But as time goes on, when the initial burst of emotions is spent, the banks always go for a restructuring of the bad loans. Just look at the Piltel case.

The banks took a haircut there, although in the beginning, everybody was issuing threats like they were up against Osama or something.

The same thing is happening in the Ramcar case. The banks are in that CYA stage. You know—cover your A! Just give them time to build up their loss reserve.

Ayala flagship profit down 13%

By Elena R. Torrijos

AYALA Corp., the flagship holding company of the Ayala family, reported that its profit for the first nine months fell 13 percent to P2.52 billion from P2.85 billion during the same period last year because of higher financing costs.

Subsidiaries Globe Telecom and Bank of the Philippine Islands posted far higher net income levels during the nine-month period compared to last year's figures while Ayala Land Inc. registered a flat net income.

Ayala Corp.'s gains from these units, however, were substantially eroded by interest and hedging costs on foreign loans.

In a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ayala Corp. managing director Rufino Luis Manotok said the company planned to bring down its debt-to-equity ratio by repaying $170 million in loans by the end of the month.

He also disclosed that funds have also been earmarked to cover debt maturing in 2002 and further debt reductions would be undertaken.

BPI, the country's second largest, registered a consolidated net income of P4.6 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 72 percent against the comparative level of P2.7 billion last year.

Ayala Land reported a net income of P1.6 billion. Land sales and lease income from commercial centers and office buildings provided the property developer with operating revenues of P4 billion.

LONE STAR EXEC IN MANILA

President Macapagal-Arroyo receives in Malacañang Lone Star Asia-Pacific president Stephan Z. Elleff (left) during a courtesy call accompanied by Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of the Century Properties Group, the local partner of Lone Star. Lone Star Asia-Pacific Investments Ltd., the biggest private equity fund of its kind that invests in real estate and non-performing loans in Asia today, has committed to invest in the Philippines. The US firm's entry into this new investment area opens a bigger market for non-performing loans or opportunities for so-called bad loans to become performing assets again.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, November 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	54,600
China Banking Corp.	500	500	500	500	750
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	38,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	155	160	155	159	170,710
Phil. Bank of Comm.	100	100	100	100	100
Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	45,000
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	43,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	11,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1335	1330	1330	2,960
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1095	1095	1090	1090	14,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	98,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,510,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	565	580	565	575	24,560
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	120,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	110,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	362.5	362.5	360	360	138,800
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	18,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	22	21.5	22	128,900
Manila Electric Co. B	29	30.5	29	29.5	2,835,000
Petron Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	3,621,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,202,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	14,460,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	12,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	82,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	16,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	20,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.5	23	23.5	963,200
RFM Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	74,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	108,300
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	50.5	353,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.2	4.35	4.2	4.35	15,837,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.32	117,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.56	0.5	0.56	60,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	22,120,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	16,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	90,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	9	8.4	9	711,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.5	0.5	2,500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22	22	22	22	1,301,000
Ionics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	4,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	620,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	350,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	190,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	30,100
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	2,020
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,200
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.001	0.001	13,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	3,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	6,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	11,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.45	2,740,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	1,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,589,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.84	560,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	2,978,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.017	83,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	70,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	17,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	6,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	7,100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	190,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	401,940	52,968,615.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	126,254,480	327,770,505.00
PRO	9,177,000	30,588,690.00
Mining	98,070,000	1,626,100.00
OIL	31,790,000	204,100.00
GRAND TOTALS:	265,703,420	413,176,010.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	391.53	UP 2.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,422.26	UP 5.07
PRO	430.41	DOWN 1.53
Mining	937.71	UP 1.78
OIL	1.16	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	658.29	DOWN 2.33
Composite	999.79	UP 3.77

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,506

PHONETASTIC FESTIVAL

PLDT boosts landline network

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has launched a program that would make having a landline easier and more affordable.

Dubbed Phonetastic Festival, the program would make same-day phone installation possible at a price much lower than the usual installation fee of P1,999.

This was PLDT's effort to help the National Telecommunications Commission achieve its goal of universal access to landline phones.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio earlier said that "the main reason why Filipinos cannot get or maintain a phone in their homes is cost."

According to the Universal Access Benchmark report of the Department of Transportation and Communications, 63 percent of Filipino families today could not afford landline telephone service at current prices.

"Thus, LECs (local exchange carriers) should offer consumers more flexible pricing plans to get a phone for their homes," Rio said.

The NTC had already presented to the public as well as the industry players a set of more flexible pricing plans that would make getting a landline easier for Filipinos.

These new guidelines would include the existing fixed monthly billing scheme, the prepaid scheme and the metered scheme.

While the memorandum circular for the new flexible billing schemes has not yet been made final, PLDT launched its Phonetastic Festival to make more options available to consumers. This could at least attract more people to apply for landlines.

During the program period, consumers could also avail themselves of PLDT's prepaid landline service, Teletipid. Other landline service features would also be available at discounted prices.

"Instead of consumers going to us to apply for a line, we are now going to them," PLDT national retail marketing sector head Joaquin San Agustin said.

Instead of paying in full the P1,999 installation fee, an applicant for a landline need only pay a P500 down payment. The balance would then be paid in eight monthly installments added to the monthly bill, he explained.

The Phonetastic Festival was initially run in Barangay Balibago, Angeles City, but it would also be launched in North Marikina, Angono, Cardona, Montalban, San Mateo, Binangonan, Morong and Tanay during the year.

Globe Telecom seen to focus on corporate accounts

GLOBE Telecom Inc. said it was "cautiously optimistic" about its growth for the next quarter, although holiday cellular phone sales could jack up revenues.

Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said the third quarter results were "a little better than what we had in mind."

"We're really happy with our third quarter performance. This is the 13th straight quarter that we had revenue (growth)," Ablaza said.

Globe posted a 219-percent surge in revenues for the first three quarters of the year. Analysts said this could have been higher without the losses of its subsidiary Isla Communications Co.

For the last two years, Ablaza said they had seen sales pick up in December as cellular phones had become gift items for a lot of people.

However, he said the global economic slowdown, the effects of which were compounded by the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, would inevitably reduce consumer spending, specially in the coming months.

Because of this, Ablaza said Globe would be targeting more corporate accounts in the future.

"As the economy tightens, we will be looking closely at corporate accounts," he said.

Aside from reduced domestic household spending, the foreign exchange rat[illegible] volatile next year.

To shield Globe from the adverse effects of foreign exchange fluctuations, Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said they had already swapped 40 percent of their dollar-denominated loans for pesos.

He said this was in preparation for a possible amendment in the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) that the Philippines had adapted from the United States.

In the existing GAAP, companies were allowed to capitalize some of their foreign exchange losses. With the proposed amendment of the GAAP, foreign exchange losses would have to be booked in a company's profit and loss statement, Gonzalez explained.

"This would, in turn, [illegible] company's [illegible] income lower [illegible] foreign exchange losses would have to be deducted from its total operating revenues.

Gonzalez said they would lobby for the deferment of the proposal, but they would also be preparing themselves in case the amendment gets approved.

"The amendment would be detrimental to us because of the foreign exchange (forex) volatility. To prepare ourselves, we're active in swapping our dollar-denominated loans to peso," he said.

But he said they were balancing their swaps as "it is wrong to swap 100 percent of the debts into peso. We also have dollar-denominated revenues that can cover our risk."

As of now, Gonzalez said converting their dollar-denominated loans into [illegible] would cost them even more. "The interest rate on the dollar (loans) is 6 percent, while it is 12 percent to 14 percent for the peso (loans). But it will give you savings, depending on foreign exchange volatility," he said.

CURRENCIES

Nov. 09, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.119695	1.000000	51.8400
Japan	Yen	0.009323	0.008326	0.4316
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628149	1.454100	75.3805
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143735	0.128370	6.6547
Switzerland	Franc	0.682866	0.609868	31.6156
Canada	Dollar	0.700466	0.625586	32.4304
Singapore	Dollar	0.616742	0.550812	28.5541
Australia	Dollar	0.575975	0.514403	26.6667
Bahrain	Dinar	2.970172	2.652661	137.5139
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298586	0.266667	13.8240
Brunei	Dollar	0.616233	0.550358	28.5306
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025184	0.022492	1.1660
UAE	Dirham	0.304928	0.272331	14.1176
Korea	Won	0.000878	0.000784	0.0406
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893100	46.2983
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456635	23.6720
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136152	7.0581
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405271	21.0092
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064904	3.3646
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022139	1.1477
Italy	Lira	0.000516	0.000461	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150209	7.7868
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004455	0.2309
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005368	0.2783
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022139	1.1477
Ireland	Punt	1.269736	1.134003	58.7867

Stock prices rise 0.4%

SHARES ended higher yesterday following the Bangko Sentral's announcement of a half-percentage-point cut in its key overnight rates a day earlier, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange index ended [illegible] points or 0.4 percent, at 999.79, adding to a 0.7-percent gain Thursday. The main index managed to breach the 1,000-point psychological resistance early in the session, but the market failed to sustain its gains and end above that level.

Volume turnover rose to 266.78 million shares but value fell to P413.35 million from 204.77 million shares worth P472.69 million on Thursday.

"The news that came out yesterday on the rate cut and prospect of further rate cuts, after the central bank said it was open to further lowering rates, helped improve market sentiment," said Abacus Securities analyst Ramon [illegible]

AP

Make a whiz

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* * *

NOW, the major companies in the group are those in battery making. Ramcar. Oriental and Motorlite. Oriental Yuasa. These companies were never in default.

Still, if you look at the footnotes to their financial statements, you will find all the disclosures which, the banks are now saying, were supposedly not made by SGV.

So far the reaction of the banks was only expected. As in any big account that turned bad, the banks are angry, at first, and then they are looking for a scapegoat.

But as time goes on, when the initial burst of emotions is spent, the banks always go for a restructuring of the bad loans. Just look at the Piltel case.

The banks took a haircut there, although in the beginning, everybody was issuing threats like they were up against Osama or something.

The same thing is happening in the Ramcar case. The banks are in that CYA stage. You know—cover your A! Just give them time to build up their loss reserve.

Ayala flagship profit down 13%

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

AYALA Corp., the flagship holding company of the Ayala family, reported that its profit for the first nine months fell 13 percent to P2.52 billion from P2.85 billion during the same period last year because of higher financing costs.

Subsidiaries Globe Telecom and Bank of the Philippine Islands posted far higher net income levels during the nine-month period compared to last year's figures while Ayala Land Inc. registered a flat net income.

Ayala Corp.'s gains from these units, however, were substantially eroded by interest and hedging costs on foreign loans.

In a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ayala Corp. managing director Rufino Luis Manotok said the company planned to bring down its debt-to-equity ratio by repaying $170 million in loans by the end of the month.

He also disclosed that funds have also been earmarked to cover debt maturing in 2002 and further debt reductions would be undertaken.

BPI, the country's second largest, registered a consolidated net income of P4.6 billion in the first nine months of the year, up 72 percent against the comparative level of P2.7 billion last year.

Ayala Land reported a net income of P1.6 billion. Land sales and lease income from commercial centers and office buildings provided the property developer with operating revenues of P4 billion.

LONE STAR EXEC IN MANILA

President Macapagal-Arroyo receives in Malacañang Lone Star Asia-Pacific president Stephan Z. Elieff (left) during a courtesy call accompanied by Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of the Century Properties Group, the local partner of Lone Star. Lone Star Asia-Pacific Investments Ltd., the biggest private equity fund of its kind that invests in real estate and non-performing loans in Asia today, has committed to invest in the Philippines. The US firm's entry into this new investment area opens a bigger market for non-performing loans or opportunities for so-called bad loans to become performing assets again.

PHONETASTIC FESTIVAL

PLDT boosts landline network

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has launched a program that would make having a landline easier and more affordable.

Dubbed Phonetastic Festival, the program would make same-day phone installation possible at a price much lower than the usual installation fee of P1,999.

This was PLDT's effort to help the National Telecommunications Commission achieve its goal of universal access to landline phones.

NTC chief Eliseo Rio earlier said that "the main reason why Filipinos cannot get or maintain a phone in their homes is cost."

According to the Universal Access Benchmark report of the Department of Transportation and Communications, 63 percent of Filipino families today could not afford landline telephone service at current prices.

"Thus, LECs (local exchange carriers) should offer consumers more flexible pricing plans to get a phone for their homes," Rio said.

The NTC had already presented to the public as well as the industry players a set of more flexible pricing plans that would make getting a landline easier for Filipinos.

These new guidelines would include the existing fixed monthly billing scheme, the prepaid scheme and the metered scheme.

While the memorandum circular for the new flexible billing schemes has not yet been made final, PLDT launched its Phonetastic Festival to make more options available to consumers. This could at least attract more people to apply for landlines.

During the program period, consumers could also avail themselves of PLDT's prepaid landline service, Teletipid. Other landline service features would also be available at discounted prices.

"Instead of consumers going to us to apply for a line, we are now going to them," PLDT national retail marketing sector head Jonquin San Agustin said.

Instead of paying in full the P1,999 installation fee, an applicant for a landline need only pay a P500 down payment. The balance would then be paid in eight monthly installments added to the monthly bill, he explained.

The Phonetastic Festival was initially run in Barangay Balibago, Angeles City, but it would also be launched in North Marikina, Angono, Cardona, Montalban, San Mateo, Binangonan, Morong and Tanay during the year.

Globe Telecom seen to focus on corporate accounts

GLOBE Telecom Inc. said it was "cautiously optimistic" about its growth for the next quarter, although holiday cellular phone sales could jack up revenues.

Globe president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said the third quarter results were "a little better than what we had in mind."

"We're really happy with our third quarter performance. This is the 13th straight quarter that we had revenue (growth)," Ablaza said.

Globe posted a 219-percent surge in revenues for the first three quarters of the year. Analysts said this could have been higher without the losses of its subsidiary Isla Communications Co.

For the last two years, Ablaza said they had seen sales pick up in December as cellular phones had become gift items for a lot of people.

However, he said the global economic slowdown, the effects of which were compounded by the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States, would inevitably reduce consumer spending, specially in the coming months.

Because of this, Ablaza said Globe would be targeting more corporate accounts in the future.

"As the economy tightens, we will be looking closely at corporate accounts," he said.

Aside from reduced domestic household spending, the foreign exchange [illegible]

To shield Globe from the adverse effects of foreign exchange fluctuations, Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said they had already swapped 40 percent of their dollar-denominated loans for pesos.

He said this was in preparation for a possible amendment in the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) that the Philippines had adapted from the United States.

In the existing GAAP, companies were allowed to capitalize some of their foreign exchange losses. With the proposed amendment of the GAAP, foreign exchange losses would have to be booked in a company's profit and loss statement, Gonzalez explained.

This would, in turn, [illegible] company's [illegible] income lower [illegible] foreign exchange losses would have to be deducted from its total operating revenues.

Gonzalez said they would lobby for the deferment of the proposal but they would also be preparing themselves in case the amendment gets approved.

"The amendment would be detrimental to us because of the foreign exchange (forex) volatility. To prepare ourselves, we're active in swapping our dollar-denominated loans to peso," he said.

But he said they were balancing their swaps as "it is wrong to swap 100 percent of the debts into peso. We also have dollar-denominated revenues that can cover our risk."

As of now, Gonzalez said converting their dollar-denominated loans into [illegible] would cost them even more. "The interest rate on the dollar (loans) is 6 percent, while it is 12 percent to 14 percent for the peso (loans). But it will give you savings, depending on foreign exchange volatility," he said.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, November 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43	43.5	54,600
China Banking Corp.	500	500	500	500	750
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	38,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	155	160	155	159	170,710
Phil. Bank of Comm.	100	100	100	100	100
Philippine National Bank	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	45,000
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	43,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.5	11,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1335	1330	1330	2,960
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1095	1095	1090	1090	14,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	98,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,510,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	565	580	565	575	24,560
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	120,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	110,000
Piltel	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	362.5	362.5	360	360	138,800
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	18,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	22	21.5	22	128,900
Manila Electric Co. B	29	30.5	29	29.5	2,835,000
Petron Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	3,621,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.3	2,202,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	14,460,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	12,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	82,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	16,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	20,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.5	23	23.5	963,200
RFM Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	74,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41	41	40.5	40.5	108,300
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	50.5	353,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.2	4.35	4.2	4.35	15,837,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.4	1.4	1.32	1.32	117,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.56	0.5	0.56	60,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	22,120,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.0055	0.005	0.0055	16,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	90,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.4	9	8.4	9	711,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.53	0.5	0.5	2,500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	50,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22	22	22	22	1,301,000
Ionics Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	4,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	620,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	60,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	350,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	300,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	190,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	30,100
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	520	520	520	520	2,020
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,200
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.001	0.001	13,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	3,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.0042	6,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	11,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.35	4.45	4.35	4.45	2,740,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	1,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,569,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.83	0.85	0.83	0.84	560,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	2,978,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.019	0.019	0.017	0.017	83,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	70,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	17,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	6,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	7,100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	190,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	401,940	52,968,615.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	126,254,480	327,770,505.00
PRO	9,177,000	30,588,690.00
Mining	98,070,000	1,626,100.00
OIL	31,790,000	204,100.00
GRAND TOTALS:	265,703,420	413,176,010.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	391.53	UP 2.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,422.26	UP 5.07
PRO	430.41	DOWN 1.53
Mining	937.71	UP 1.78
OIL	1.16	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	658.29	DOWN 2.33
Composite	999.79	UP 3.77

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 20; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 40; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,506

CURRENCIES

Nov. 09, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.119695	1.000000	51.8400
Japan	Yen	0.009323	0.008326	0.4316
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628149	1.454100	75.3805
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143735	0.128370	6.6547
Switzerland	Franc	0.682866	0.609868	31.6156
Canada	Dollar	0.700466	0.625586	32.4304
Singapore	Dollar	0.616742	0.550812	28.5541
Australia	Dollar	0.575975	0.514403	26.6667
Bahrain	Dinar	2.970172	2.652661	137.5139
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.298586	0.266667	13.8240
Brunei	Dollar	0.616233	0.550358	28.5306
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025184	0.022492	1.1660
UAE	Dirham	0.304928	0.272331	14.1176
Korea	Won	0.000878	0.000784	0.0406
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.893100	46.2983
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.456635	23.6720
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136152	7.0581
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.405271	21.0092
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064904	3.3646
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022139	1.1477
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000461	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.150209	7.7868
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004455	0.2309
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005368	0.2783
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022139	1.1477
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.134003	58.7867

Stock prices rise 0.4%

SHARES ended higher yesterday following the Bangko Sentral's announcement of a half-percentage-point cut in its key overnight rates a day earlier, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended [illegible] points or 0.4 percent, at 999.79, adding to a 0.7-percent gain Thursday. The main index managed to breach the 1,000-point psychological resistance early in the [illegible] failed to sustain its gains and end above that level.

Volume turnover rose to 266.78 million shares but value fell to P413.35 million from 204.77 million shares worth P472.69 million on Thursday.

"The news that came out yesterday on the rate cut and prospects of further rate cuts, after the central bank said it was open to further lowering rates, helped improve market sentiment," said Abacus Securities analyst Ramon [illegible]

AP

Spending our way out of the economic slump

COMMENTARY

THE EVENTS following the terrorist attacks in the United States have pushed most economies to the brink of a recession. While personal consumption is expected to improve in the holidays, this is seasonal and will not be sufficient to buoy the economy in the coming year. Along with these are the continued debacle in Mindanao, persistent rumors of a coup, and the unending political squabbles. Overall, business confidence has reached alarmingly low levels, approximating those found at the time of the 1998 Asian Financial Crisis. Many in the business sector express concern that the government has so far not come up with any clear economic policy response to address these problems.

With the fall of aggregate demand, there seems to be a general perception of capital losses on bonds, outweighing interest earnings. In this situation, banks are cautious of lending despite higher levels of deposits. Expectations converge as everyone believes that interest rates have nowhere to go but up. In effect, no wealth is created as people hold on to money in anticipation perhaps of better times. This situation resembles what economists call a "liquidity trap," where the financial system has ample liquidity with no short-run perceptible reduction in interest rates.

Implications

There are two implications of a liquidity trap. First, any expansion would have to come strictly from fiscal, and not monetary stimulus. With loan-to-deposit ratios currently hovering around 60 percent, banks have so much money that the private sector is not using. The low loan-to-deposit ratio is an indication that banks are not earning their potential profits, and that we have ample liquidity. This implies that monetary expansion is not the answer to our current slowdown.

Second, under current circumstances, the logical prescription for the ailing economy boils down to allowing further expansion in the fiscal deficit. Additional government expenditure on the right things, should generate additional demand, thereby creating jobs and igniting the slowing economy.

In normal times, this move would spark worries of "crowding out." When government borrows money to expend, it uses up resources that would have otherwise been used by the private sector. When resources drain, interest rate increases and this discourages private investment. But the economy is not under "normal times." The economy is under a "liquidity trap" and therefore, crowding out is not likely to be a problem at this time.

Another worry from excess government expenditure is a likely rise in the inflation rate. Low average capacity utilization in the production sectors make this less of a concern at this time. The average capacity utilization for September 2001 was 78.7 percent, lower than recent years' already low average of 80 percent. Certain key sectors like energy and industry are working under capacity. Hence, expansion in demand is unlikely to lead to significant inflationary pressure. Indeed, the inflation rate has remained steady even as the government has begun to miss its budget deficit target. It is not likely to rise significantly with some further relaxing of the target.

Economic cycle

Our preliminary estimates indicate that the Philippine economy currently cycles around a 2.3-percent long-term GDP growth rate. We are also on the downtrend of the business cycle even before the Sept. 11 attacks. The consequence of the attacks can only worsen the downtrend. Hence, the time to act is now if we are to minimize and arrest the further downtrend in the economy's performance.

Even as we advocate a fiscal solution to our current woes, three important points bear emphasis. First, there should be no letup in the drive to dramatically improve tax administration and collection efficiency. Much scope remains for substantial increases in the revenues that could finance the increased expenditures we advocate.

Second, this solution is only short run and is only meant to ease the pain when the economy starts to slow down. The long-run solution remains a common sense. That is the government should go back to its basic role. This means maximizing government efficiency and minimizing corruption, building infrastructure that quickens movement of goods and services, achieving political stability, reducing the crime rate, implementing agrarian reform, etc. The long-term solution is easier said than done. But the fact remains that the government needs to achieve these to attain sustainable development.

Third, it is not enough that the government spends more to stimulate the economy. How it spends more is just as important. For one thing, additional government spending should be cautious of not supporting only a small group of companies with a narrow set of business interests. The expansionary fiscal policy we advocate should lead to broad-based stimulus and development impact.

In particular, agriculture is expected to be the most promising driver of our growth in the near term. It is obvious that manufactured exports will not be the key growth driver it has been before, given the current slowdown in our major export partners (United States and Japan), and increased competition from China as it enters WTO.

Rural sector

Fiscal expenditure should therefore target the rural sector, particularly small-farmer agriculture. The Macapagal administration's expressed intention to create a million jobs in the rural sector is the right track. Apart from what is stated above, there are three reasons why this prescription makes imminent sense. First, the rural poor have greater propensity to consume. Second, greater numbers of Filipinos reside in the rural areas and work in or depend on the agricultural sector. Thus the impact of government expenditures on the overall economy will be stronger. There is no clearer evidence of inter-sectoral multiplier effect of increased rural incomes than the mushrooming of small appliance dealers all over the countryside in the mid-1990s. This was a time when regional income data showed that every region of the country contributed to our overall dynamic economic growth. Clearly, the benefits of rural sector growth trickle up.

The reason has been a compelling one long before Sept. 11: Spending directed to the rural economy directly benefits the poor, rather than relying on benefits to trickle down to them.

In summary, we submit that our current difficulties call for another round of pump priming, but pump priming with a difference. The rural development expenditures that we may have in mind are quick-gestating small-scale infrastructures (roads, communal irrigation, spring development and the construction of public markets in key small urban areas with sizeable rural hinterlands) that would not only provide rural employment, but also support production and access to inputs and markets. Pump priming that is biased toward the rural poor will hit two birds with one stone: We mitigate, if not arrest, the overall economic slowdown—and we alleviate poverty at the same time.

(This article was written by members of the Economics Department of the Ateneo de Manila University: Cielito Habito, Luis Dumlao, Leonardo Lanzona, Harry Pasimio, Rosalina Tan, Rochlano Briones, Ellen Palanca, Germelino Bautista, Fernando Aldaba, Victor Venida, Marissa Macam, Cristina Manalo-Bautista, Rolando Bayot, Ronald Tamangan, Cruzita Carbon, Aleta Domdom and Tara Sia.)

Gov't, Tan start drafting terms of PNB rehab program

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT team led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and the group of Lucio Tan have started to draft a term sheet in preparation for the signing next week of a P25-billion debt-to-equity agreement and rehabilitation plan for Philippine National Bank.

The Macapagal administration is binding the taipan to a promise he made to President Macapagal-Arroyo during a plane trip from China to Manila last week that he would cooperate with the government to finally resolve the PNB issue.

The debt-to-equity conversion, also called the renationalization of the country's sixth largest bank, had been pending since May due to Tan's opposition to certain issues, especially the price at which to convert the bank's debts into state equity.

Camacho told reporters that he met with Tan's group last Thursday to start coming up "with a mutually agreeable term sheet" that would detail the agreement on four important issues that must be addressed by the debt conversion agreement.

The finance chief said the "two-week deadline" that he had promised last Monday in which to sign an agreement with the taipan remained very realistic.

The term sheet would contain a P40 per share conversion price for a portion of the P25-billion loan that two government agencies had extended to PNB in October last year into government equity. The reduction of the bank's P60 per share par value to P40 would also be tackled by the two parties.

Aside from the conversion price, also being discussed in detail by the two camps would be the issue of the PNB advances in behalf of the government and how it would be treated as well as a resolution of management control and the future joint sale of the two parties.

Another government source explained that the P25 billion in emergency loans—P15 billion from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and P10 billion from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.—would be combined but treated in three ways.

The priority is to convert close to P8 billion of the PNB debts into government equity.

This would increase the government's ownership to 45 percent and consequently dilute the taipan's 67-percent stake to 45 percent. The remaining 10 percent in PNB would be owned by the public.

The next step is to repay at most P10 billion of the government advances from the bank. Sources said the government would only pay no more than P10 billion of the so-called advances that the PNB claimed had reached P13 billion. The money that the Bureau of Customs had used to pay imports inspector SGS, for instance, was advanced from PNB.

After the two measures shall have been completed, the government, through the central bank, would restructure the remaining P7 billion in PNB loans as part of the rehabilitation package.

The plan is to allow the bank to pay off the remaining amount within the next eight to 10 years.

On management control, the agreement of the two parties was for the government to nominate the board members up to senior management and Tan would choose from the list.

RP taps 5 banks for $225-M bond float

(From page B1)

termine the pricing for the transaction during a roadshow from Nov. 21 to 23 in London, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Milan.

Camacho said the national government needed close to about $1.4 billion next year to help finance its budget.

He said with the $500-million yen bond issue by mid-December and a $250-million private placement to be handled by Credit Suisse First Boston by the end of the month, the government would have funded more than a third of its requirements for 2002.

Camacho clarified that the government "favors the issuance of bonds that would carry credit enhancements" such as guarantees from the World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and Nippon Export and Investment.

"The guarantees would insulate us from the current volatility in emerging market bonds," the finance chief said.

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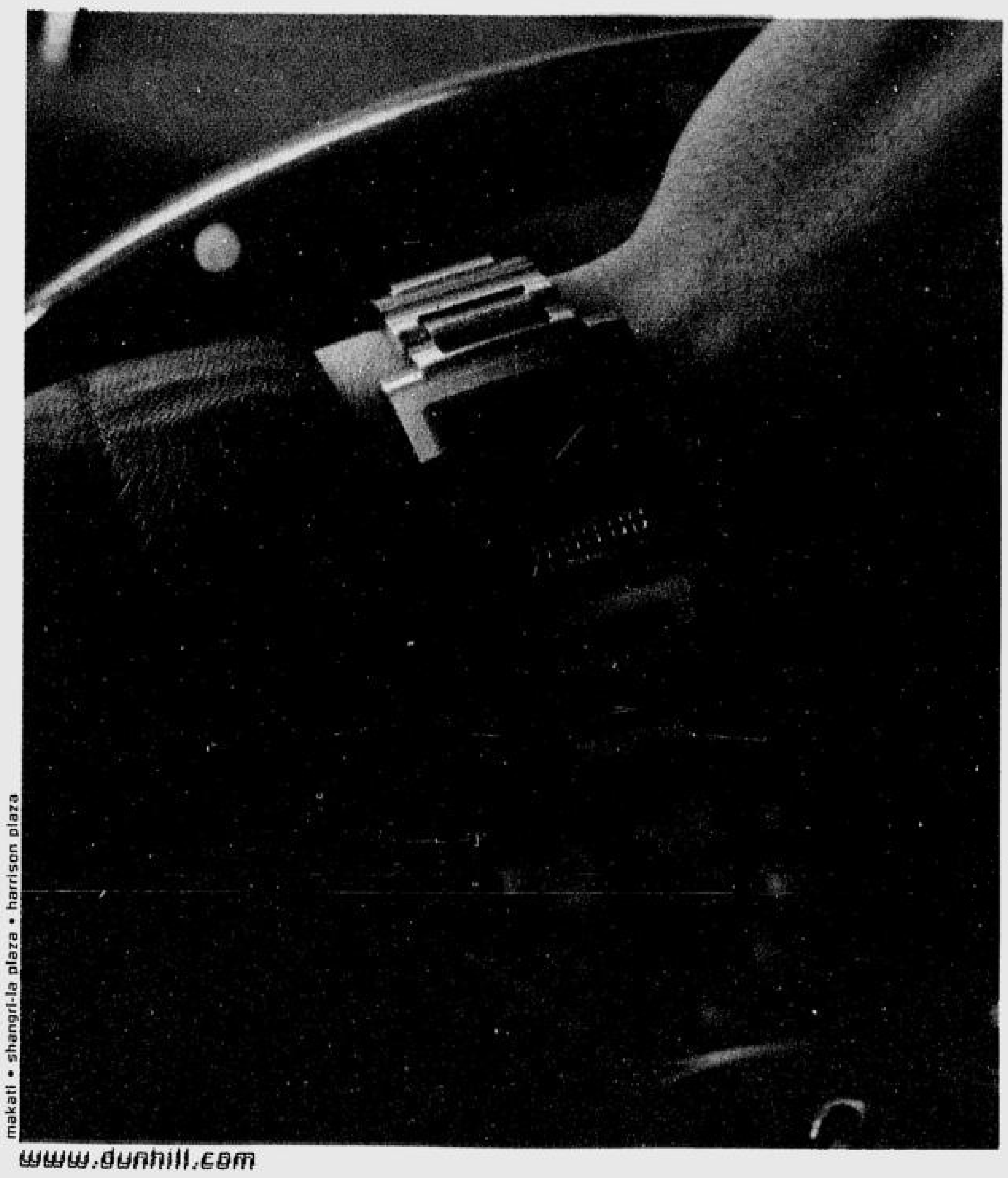

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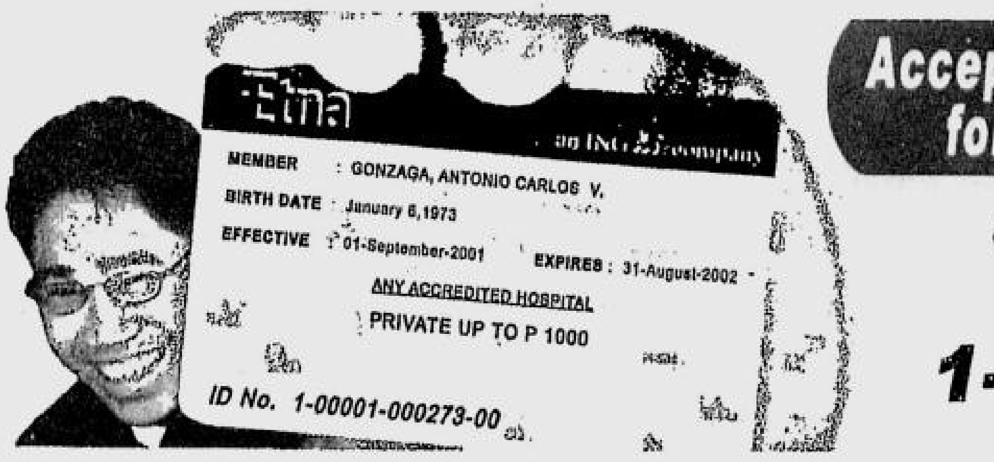

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Tariff seen giving back 14% of market to cement firms

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. said yesterday that it was confident local cement manufacturers would recover as much as 14 percent of the local market following the Department of Trade and Industry's imposition of a provisional tariff worth P20.62 per 40-kilogram bag on imported cement.

Union Cement Corp. executive vice president Francisco Viray said while the provisional tariff granted by the trade department was less than the 50 percent—more than P50 per bag—being sought by Philcemcor, it was still enough to level the playing field between imported and local cement.

Viray said he expected the share of imported cement to fall from 22 percent to 8 percent within the 200 days that the provisional tariff would be in effect, as local cement makers lower prices to between P135 and P125 per bag from over P145 at present.

On Thursday, the trade department agreed to impose a provisional duty on cement imports to buttress the defenses of Philcemcor against rival cement manufacturers overseas.

The trade department said it would impose a provisional duty of P20.60 for every 40-kilogram bag on all cement imports this month—just half of what Philcemcor had been lobbying for since March last year—initially under the Anti-Dumping Law and later under the Safeguard Measures Act.

The tariff was based on the landed cost of imports estimated at P103 per bag.

"With a more level playing field, we expect to recover volumes and offer lower prices to consumers as early as next week," Viray said.

Philcemcor sought for a provisional duty to stem the surge in cement imports that the group claimed was being dumped into the country at prices below production costs.

The trade department's decision will bolster Philcemcor's pending petition with the Tariff Commission to impose quotas and permanent tariffs on cement tariffs.

Viray said the 200-day effective period of the provisional tariff would enable cement makers to boost their operations without cutting down on manpower.

Viray said UCC would invest P300 million starting next year for efficiency enhancing measures in its plants.

He stressed that even with the anticipated increase in volume, cement manufacturers have to compete with each other to get a bigger share of the market.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the provisional tariff would come with a firm commitment by Philcemcor to maintain its retail prices at between P125 and P135 per bag, a substantial cut from its current price of P145 per bag.

Roxas said the trade department found just cause in Philcemcor's petition because of the sharp rise in imports, shrinking market share of local brands, a drastic slowdown in production and a ballooning number of job cuts.

He said the provisional tariff would allow Philcemcor to recover the market share it lost to imported brands and stop further shutdowns in plants to prevent more layoffs in the industry.

SEC approves renewal of Filinvest debt papers

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the renewal of P1 billion in long-term commercial papers issued by Filinvest Land Inc.

SEC documents showed that Filinvest would use P420 million of the proceeds from its long-term commercial papers to finance construction of existing and future housing projects, P300 million as working capital and P265 million for land development.

The long-term commercial papers will be divided into three series, with consecutive maturity of three years, four years and five years.

The debt papers will be offered on Nov. 12 and 13 at a minimum denomination of P100,000.

RCBC Capital Corp., Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.'s investment arm, has been tapped as lead selling agent.

Philippine Ratings Services Corp., an affiliate of Standard & Poor's, gave Filinvest capability to pay both principal and interest on the P1 billion in long-term commercial papers a rating of PRS Aa.

The rating indicates strong capability given Filinvest's stable, though moderate coverage measures resulting from its above average business position as a home builder and management's prudent operating strategy.

Philratings also noted the diversification of Filinvest's portfolio to take advantage of opportunities in other property segments, the company's moderate leverage position and track record as a strong player in the housing industry.

Elena R. Torrijos

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Rural banks post better NPL ratios in Q2

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S 782 rural banks were able to improve their loan portfolio as of end-June, when the industry's bad loans ratio slid to 16.1 percent of total loans from 17.3 percent the previous quarter.

Data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that the non-performing loans of rural banks declined by 9 percent as of the second quarter of the year to P6.57 billion from the first quarter's P7.22 billion.

In the same period last year, their NPLs stood at P8.16 billion.

A lower bad-loans ratio helped offset a 2.5-percent decline in the rural banks' total loan portfolio to P40.75 billion from P41.79 billion as of end-March and from P41.54 billion a year ago.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal or interest has been unpaid for 90 days or more after the due date. A loan is considered past due if it is unpaid after a month.

The central bank, in a statement, said rural banks and cooperatives also posted a better performance in the second quarter as their delinquency ratio, a measure of the past due loans, moved down to 16 percent and 17.7 percent, respectively, from the previous quarter's 16.6 percent and 24.2 percent.

At the same time, the coverage ratio of the rural banking sector increased to 33 percent from 30.5 percent during the first quarter as the 9-percent drop in bad loans outpaced a 1.5-percent decline in loan loss reserves.

On the other hand, the real and other properties owned or acquired of the level of foreclosed assets rose by 1.5 percent while total assets contracted by 0.4 percent.

This led to an 8.8-percent increase in gross Ropoa from 8.7 percent a quarter ago.

The central bank, however, noted that overall asset quality of the rural banks improved as bad assets slid to 18.2 percent of total assets in the second quarter from 19 percent the previous quarter.

Bad assets tapered down by 4.4 percent to P12.32 billion from P12.88 billion in the first quarter as reserves for non-performing assets slid by only 1.1 percent. Thus, the coverage ratio for the soured assets went up to 18.8 percent from 18.1 percent.

On a regional basis, Cagayan Valley posted the highest bad loans ratio of 20.7 percent while banks in the Caraga region was the lowest at 7.6 percent.

Among the bank categories, the country's more than 100 thrift banks fared better compared to their bigger and smaller counterparts. In June, the NPL ratio of the savings banks stood at 11.6 percent which was even lower from the previous month's level of 11.94 percent of total loan portfolio.

Businessmen grumble over court rulings

BUSINESSMEN abroad are again grumbling over what they perceive as the country's unpredictable judicial system following the Supreme Court's decision to reverse the Philippine Shipyard and Engineering Corp.'s privatization.

In a position paper submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry, the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines said this was the Supreme Court's third decision in the last decade—the first involving the petrochemical complex in 1990 and the second being the privatization of the Manila Hotel in 1997)—that received considerable negative international publicity and undoubtedly deterred some potential foreign investment.

The Supreme Court issued a ruling in November last year awarding Philseco from the Keppel group to the 1994 losing bidder, JG Summit Holdings Inc., and mandating that all shipyards, as public utilities, should be 60 percent owned by Filipinos.

The government has a pending motion asking the high court to reverse its ruling.

The foreign chambers warned that should the Supreme Court sustain its is decision, "this could force divestment by foreign investors at a number of shipyards if they hold more than 40-percent equity."

The foreign chambers said shipyards had never been included in the negative lists drawn up by the Department of Trade and Industry and the National Economic and Development Authority.

The foreign chambers also criticized the Supreme Court's decision to award the Manila Hotel to the losing bidder, Manila Bulletin publisher Emilio Yap, from the winning Malaysian firm, as well as its decision to force a Taiwanese firm to invest in Bataan as preferred by a congressman rather in Batangas as preferred by the investor.

The foreign chambers also criticized the lower court's inclination to issue too many restraining orders against foreign investors that received approvals from all national and local government authorities to proceed with their investments.

The group said this problem was on top of the corruption in local governments, media's penchant for sensationalistic attacks on foreign investors, and ineffective immigration laws and procedures. *Gil C.*

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PEOPLE walk past an advertisement of the American movie, "Moulin Rouge," featuring a couple kissing. China's upcoming entry into the World Trade Organization will drive its soaring trade surplus with the United States even higher, Nicholas Lardy, an expert on China's economy at the Washington-based Brookings Institution, predicted. China's 15-year bid for entry could be formally approved as soon as the WTO meeting this weekend in Qatar. AP

US attacks to hamper Asia's economies–ADB

SOME of Asia's fastest-growing economies will contract this year because of the Sept. 11 attacks and subsequent US military strikes, and the gloom could persist if the fighting does not end soon, the Asian Development Bank said on Friday.

The Manila-based multilateral institution sharply downgraded average 2001 GDP growth forecasts in Asia's developing nations to 3.4 percent from an actual 7 percent in 2000. In April, the ADB said growth in this region should be 5.3 percent this year.

"The global slowdown in economic activity is turning out to be deeper, more synchronized across major economies and more persistent than expected in April," the bank said in a report.

"In addition, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and subsequent military actions have disrupted economic activity and increased risk aversion, raising the cost of capital market access for some vulnerable countries," it said.

The bank warned that economic growth could shrink even further if military action against Afghanistan was protracted, if Japan's recession deepened or if the US current account moved sharply.

"We must caution that these forecasts are made in an environment of great uncertainty," ADB vice president Myoung-Ho Shin told a news conference.

The report's authors said the forecasts accounted for a 0.5-percent contraction in Japan this year and next year and for military strikes on Afghanistan to end in a matter of months.

The bank said even if all its assumptions were met, significant growth across the region was unlikely until the middle of next year.

In that case, the region should have average growth of 4.5 percent in 2002, although this was lower than the previously forecast 6.1 percent, it said.

China an important engine

There was much diversity among the countries covered by the ADB.

The worst affected were the newly industrialized economies of Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, all of which were forecast to contract in 2001 and show only marginal recovery until mid-2000.

China and India, much more insulated from global trends, should grow pretty much as earlier forecast, with China's 2001 GDP seen up 7.3 percent and India's up around 5.6 percent, the ADB said.

"I think it's correct to say China is emerging as an important engine of growth for Asia," ADB assistant chief economist Brahm Prakash said.

Plans for a free trade area between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—agreed at this week's Asean meeting in Brunei—was a reflection of China's increasing importance to Southeast Asian nations, Prakash said.

Southeast Asia itself falls somewhere in between Asia's industrialized pockets and its insulated continental economies, the report said.

Domestic demand was likely to temper the fall in growth rates in the Philippines, and some resolution of political problems would do the same for Indonesia.

Malaysia and Thailand have, however, borne the brunt of the effects of the slowing global economy because of their higher export-to-GDP ratios and the concentration of information technology products in their exports, the ADB said.

Vietnam is also relatively insulated from the trade and information technology effects which plague the rest of the region, it said.

Pakistan would be one of the region's worst affected economies as war premiums on transport restrict trade, refugees from neighboring Afghanistan flood into the country and private capital suffers, said the ADB's director for Western Asia, Yoshihiro Iwasaki.

But the lifting of sanctions on the country would help somewhat, he said. Earlier this week, the ADB said it planned to raise economic assistance to Pakistan to $950 million from $626 million because of the impact of the Afghan war.

The ADB said most countries in the region had undertaken expansionary monetary policies in response to the crisis although at varying levels.

"The modest impact of this stimulus will begin to be felt by early 2002, the general level of uncertainty will fall and security concerns will ease as the ramifications of the attacks and related events unfold," it said.

"As a result, tourism will slowly begin to rebound and risk aversion will begin to fall, leading to a gradual increase in capital flows.

"This, combined with a slow recovery in the information technology sector, is expected to initiate the modest beginnings of a regional economic recovery by the middle of 2002, which should be well underway in the second half of the year and continue to strengthen in 2003." *Reuters*

Asia faces capital crunch after attacks

CAPITAL flows to Asia are likely to fall following the terror attacks in the United States, with dire consequences projected for weak companies, the Asian Development Bank said Friday.

"Capital flows are likely to fall as risk premiums rise as a result of the attacks," the Philippine-based bank said in the latest update to its annual publication Asian Development Outlook, released Friday.

Long-term, Asian trade would also be hit by increased transaction costs, though "this effect is not expected to be large," it said.

Meanwhile, eroded confidence would put additional downward pressure on export volumes and commodity prices.

Tourism and, potentially, banking are being hit by security concerns, it added.

Taken together, the result is that "businesses would be hit by reduced revenues and reduced access to capital at the same time, conditions that are likely to lead to the failure of weak companies."

It said that while these trends were "already evident in the global economic slowdown, availability and terms of financing have become even tighter after Sept. 11 for both governments and private firms."

The bank said foreign direct investment to the region was "still expected to be higher for developing Asia and the Pacific in 2001 than in 2000, primarily because of flows to the People's Republic of China.

"But it may fall in 2002 because of the impact of uncertainty on current investment planning."

FDI flows to ADB developing member-economies in Asia totaled $93.758 billion in 1999, latest figures show.

Portfolio investment inflows were already sharply lower prior to the attacks, but many of these economies that experienced steep stock market corrections immediately following the attacks have had only partial recoveries, ADB said.

It also noted that while foreign debt burdens have been substantially reduced since the mid-1997 Asian crisis, "risk premiums are rising on both sovereign and private debt in those countries that have relatively high debt burdens, particularly Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines."

The ADB projected that Asian exports would fall by 5 percent this year and rise by 6 percent in 2002.

It said that for those countries that have high merchandise export ratios to gross domestic products, such as Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taipei, "the impact of the delayed recovery in global trade will mean a longer period of significantly lower growth."

It added that the attacks "represent a new and significant adverse shock" for countries with relatively large tourism industries.

Tourism receipts account for 6.4 percent of GDP in Cambodia, 5.8 percent in Thailand, 5.1 percent in Malaysia, 4.8 percent in Hong Kong and 3.4 percent in the Philippines, it said. *AFP*

China WTO entry to hit Tibet

BEIJING—China's entry to the World Trade Organization, expected to be sealed this weekend, could have serious consequences for the people of Tibet, a rights group warned Friday.

Farmers across China are expected to be among the losers after the WTO accession, and a report by the London-based Free Tibet Campaign says Tibet's predominantly agrarian population may be particularly hit.

Tariffs on many agricultural imports will be slashed after China joins the global trade club, allowing in cheaper foods from vast foreign farms which are greatly more efficient than China's millions of small-holdings.

A meeting of WTO members in Doha, Qatar on Saturday is almost certain to vote in favor of allowing Chinese membership, ending a 15-year battle by Beijing to join.

Tibet's agricultural and pastoral sector, on which three-quarters of Tibetans rely for survival, has been left particularly vulnerable by 50 years of Chinese rule, the Free Tibet Campaign report said.

Many Tibetans have traditionally scratched out a living in Tibet's vast and often infertile landscape as nomadic or semi-nomadic herders. *AFP*

Taiwan set to open 1,722 items for China

TAIPEI—Taiwan is set to fully open some 1,722 items for China-bound investment that currently require case-by-case review, in line with its recent easing of mainland policy, officials said Friday.

"We expect to free most of the 1,722 items from case-by-case review to the general category under which they would no longer need prior approval from the government," said an Investment Commission spokesperson.

Meanwhile, the number of items now barred from mainland investment would be reduced from the present 195 to below 150, he said.

Products requiring case-by-case review include man-made fiber, automobiles and a variety of electronics goods. Those banned from China-bound investment include wafer foundry, notebook computers and upstream petrochemical projects.

Taiwan has already approved 5,264 China-bound investment items under the general category at this point.

A government-led panel is due to announce later this month which items are to remain banned for China-bound investment, the spokesperson said.

The move came in line with a Cabinet decision Wednesday to ease the island's policy toward investment in China from Jan. 1 to integrate cross-strait economies.

The relaxation includes allowing direct investment to the mainland, removing a $50-million ceiling on single projects and raising investment limits for locally listed companies.

It also permits direct dealings between financial institutions and lifts from $3 million to more than $20 million the amount that can be spent on a China-bound project without prior approval.

The new approach was designed to replace the so-called "no haste, be patient" policy imposed in 1996, which banned a single investment project worth more than $50 million as well as hi-tech and infrastructure projects for fears of economic dependence on the mainland.

Despite the restrictions, Taiwan businesses have injected some $70 billion into the mainland since the late 1980s, when Taipei gave the green light to indirect investment in China. *AFP*

World's largest tech trade show limps to Las Vegas

SAN FRANCISCO—Comdex, the world's largest electronics trade show and an annual coming out party for next-generation technology products, will limp instead of leap into Las Vegas this coming weekend.

According to the trade show's corporate owners, the Los Angeles-based Key3Media Group, this year's show is expecting a 25-percent drop in both exhibitors and attendance. Comdex kicks off this Sunday evening with a keynote speech by Microsoft chair Bill Gates.

The show's organizers blame both the continuing downturn in the technology market and the Sept. 11 attacks that have prompted people to eschew travel and large gatherings.

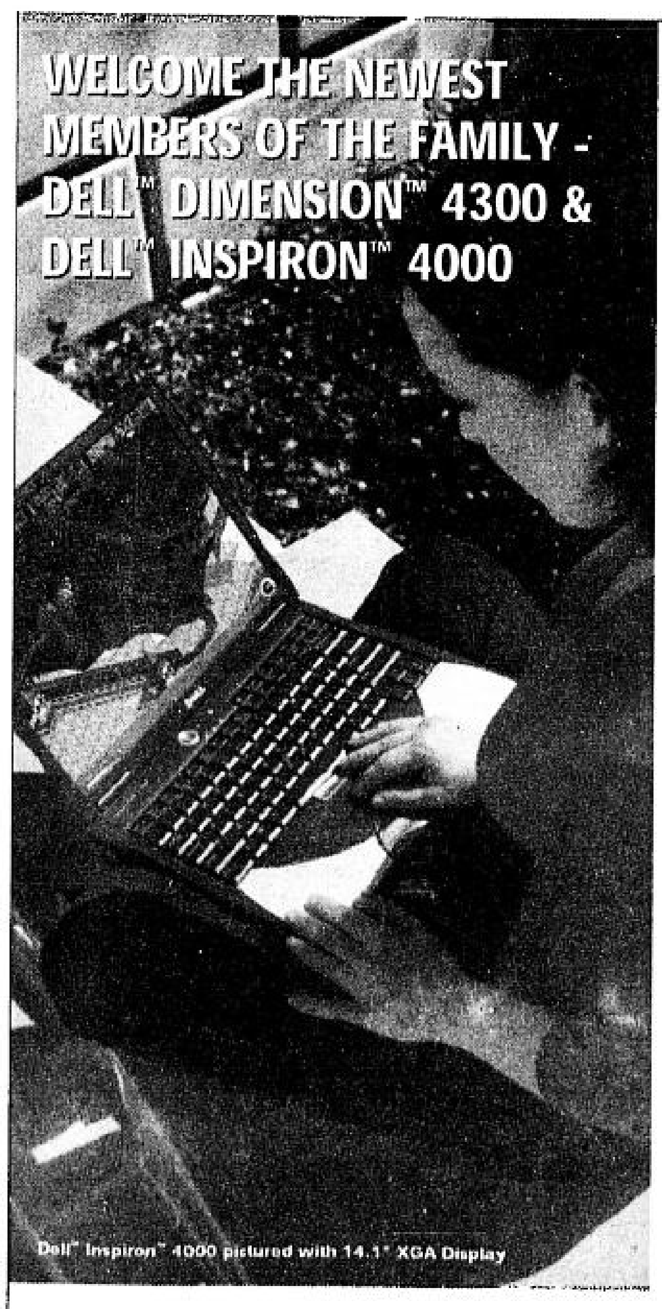
"It's going to be one of our more difficult shows," said Amy Groden, a Comdex spokesperson. "But those who do come will get a good show for their money."

The expected 150,000 attendees—down from 200,000 a year ago—will be treated to major displays by technology stalwarts Microsoft and Intel. However, companies like IBM and Dell opt for smaller one-on-one meetings with vendors and media.

"There are better ways for us to get the word out," said one IBM executive, who asked not to be named.

Besides the keynote speeches, which include Gates, Oracle's Larry Ellison, Cisco's John Chambers and Kunitake Ando of Sony, the 2,300 exhibitors will be showing off new wireless devices, faster computers and such gizmos as a keyboardless keyboard—a magnetic device that tracks the movement of fingers tapping on any flat surface.

But no one expects any major technology announcements this year. In the past, companies like Intel and Microsoft rolled out their newest chips or software. But with a technology downturn that has seen computer sales go flat this year, companies have been concentrating on preserving market share, not carving new ones. *AFP*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Japanese economy to shrink

TOKYO—Japan said Friday that its economy would shrink 0.9 percent in the year to March, reversing an earlier target of a 1.7-percent growth due to global technology woes pressured by the terrorist attacks.

"Sept. 11 was a turning point as the world economy has slackened since then," chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told reporters after Tokyo cut its official gross domestic product forecast.

The 0.9-percent fall will be the worst result since 1980 under the current formula used to calculate growth or contraction.

Japan's weakest performance to date was a 0.6-percent fall in the year to March 1999, when the country was caught in the grip of a banking crisis with a mountain of bad loans that have continued to grow.

The world's No. 2 economy shrank 0.8 percent over April to June this year, and data indicated a further contraction occurred in the three months to September, meaning a technical recession. Japan's July-September GDP will be released on Dec. 7.

Tokyo cut its projection in view of a deepening global technology slump and the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

In a bid to offer slight support, the Cabinet Office formally approved a 2,995.5-billion-yen ($25-billion) supplementary budget Friday and hinted at possible further pump-priming to support the nation as it sinks into its fourth recession in a decade.

"We will decide whether additional measures will be necessary while watching the (economic) situation, but Prime Minister (Junichiro) Koizumi has repeatedly said he would manage policy flexibly and boldly if a necessity arises," Fukuda said.

The government also slashed its GDP forecast to March in nominal terms, which reflects inflation or deflation, to a 2.3-percent drop from one-percent growth previously hoped for.

If realized, 2001 will be the fourth consecutive year of economic contraction in nominal terms, highlighting Japan's prolonged deflation and further pressuring the prime minister to speed up a drastic reform plan advocated when he took office in April.

Koizumi pledged to revive Japan by cleaning up the banking sector, still depressed by enormous bad loans, and reining in national debt which has exploded to 130 percent of GDP through repeated extra budgets spent on public works projects.

The latest package is much smaller than previous ones in line with a pledge by the premier to cap new government bond issues this year and next at 30 trillion yen, but some lawmakers and economists have indicated the measures are not enough with the economy so weak.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa argued: "The Japanese economy is not yet in a catastrophic situation, even without the possibility of a second supplementary budget."

But he hinted Tokyo might break the controversial bond ceiling and spend more through other means.

"I often say that we will not stick to the 30-trillion-yen bond limit at any cost. If a critical event emerges, or forceful measures that ensure economic recovery become available, we will spend more to finance this," he said.

Koizumi must break the cap with a second extra budget and may have to compromise it next year, too, said Japan Research Institute economist Makoto Ishikawa.

"Late this year will be crucial decision-making time for him in fiscal rehabilitation," Ishikawa said. "But what is worrying is a setback in the momentum for reform, which would disappoint markets."

State Minister for Economy and Fiscal Policy Heizo Takenaka warned the economy might continue shrinking next year, depending on the US economy. **AFP**

Japanese extra budget focused on jobs, nets

TOKYO—Japan's $25-billion extra budget for the year to March will provide a safety net for the unemployed and small businesses as its economy slips into its worst recession in over 20 years, the finance minister said Friday.

"We formulated (the bill) with fiscal discipline and focused on employment measures as the most critical concern," Masajuro Shiokawa told fellow lawmakers in the lower house of parliament.

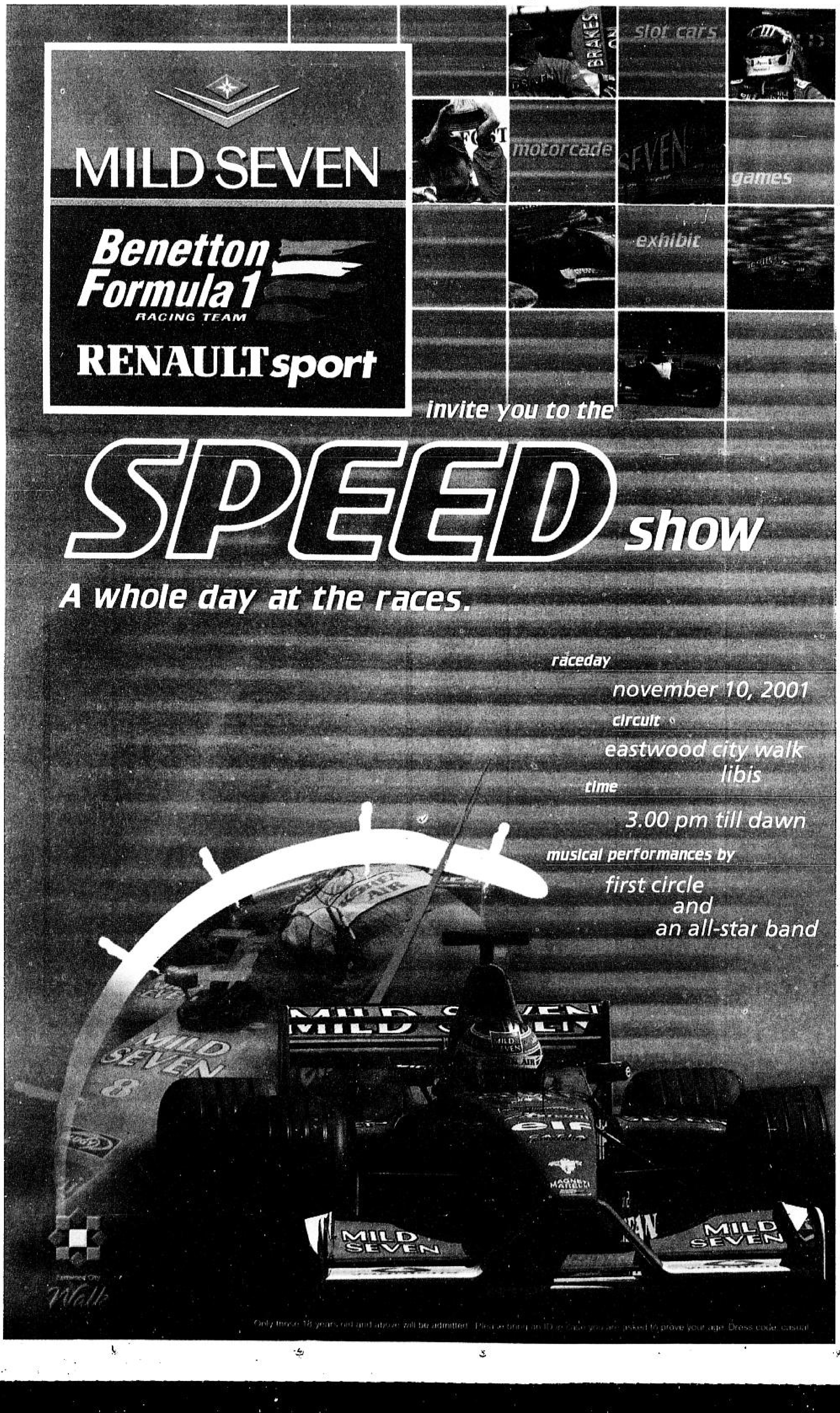
"The economic recovery of our nation would only come after we solve the issue of structural reforms," he said.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's cabinet office formerly approved the nominal 3-trillion-yen ($24.75-billion) stimulus package, which is much smaller than previous pump-priming measures, in line with a government pledge to stem national debt.

The budget bill was sent immediately to parliament for debate, with the ruling parties hoping to enact it next week.

Under the proposal, 1 trillion yen would go to employment measures—such as benefits for those without jobs—funding for smaller enterprises and advancing a structural reform plan advocated by Koizumi.

Around 50 billion yen would pay for emergency terrorist measures in response to the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, while 26.5 billion yen would be spent to deal with a mad-cow scare that hit Japan in September after the discovery of Asia's first case of the brain-wasting disease at a farm just outside Tokyo. **AFP**



Streamlining to cost NTT over $12B

TOKYO—Japan's telecommunications giant, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., will have to pay as much as $12.5 billion for a drastic restructuring drive aimed at boosting efficiency, a report said Friday.

NTT would pay an unprecedented 1.4 trillion to 1.5 trillion yen ($12.5 billion) for retirement and compensation allowances to thousands of workers who would quit and be reemployed at new group firms for lower wages, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

The staff, aged at 51 or older, would number 55,000, it said, adding that their wages would be cut by a maximum 30 percent.

NTT will report the cost as a lump sum in earnings for the year to March 2002, and expects to incur a pre-tax loss of hundreds of billions of yen instead of an earlier expected profit, the mass-circulation daily said.

The management "roughly agreed" with the labor union to transfer 110,000 of its 210,000 employees mostly at the group's two regional carriers, NTT East Corp. and NTT West Corp., to new units, a company spokesperson said.

NTT will pay more than 1.1 trillion yen in retirement allowances and another 300 billion yen to compensate for an average 55 percent of losses in lifetime wages to those facing pay cuts under a new job contract, the Yomiuri said.

NTT will finance these expenses through bank loans and asset sales, it said.

No immediate comment on the report was available from NTT. **AFP**

Firestone settles states' claims in $51-M deal

NASHVILLE, Tennessee—Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. said Thursday that it agreed to pay out up to $51.5 million to head off further litigation by 53 US states and territories over defective Firestone tires.

The out-of-court settlement "resolves numerous consumer protection claims," said Tennessee Attorney General Paul Summers, who led a national state-level probe into the safety of Firestone tires and the way the company handled the recall of millions of potentially defective tires.

The deal requires Firestone to pay 50 states and three territories $500,000 each, plus $10 million to cover their legal fees, according to a company statement.

In addition, the troubled tire-maker will stump up $5 million for a consumer education campaign and set aside $10 million to cover consumer compensation claims that have been improperly denied so far.

The agreement resolves a number of claims that the states' legal chiefs were considering, including alleged misrepresentations about tires with high rates of separation and alleged misleading statements made during the company's tire recall process.

And while it does not include any findings of fact against Firestone or include any admission of liability by the company, "this agreement provides greater protection for consumers who purchase Bridgestone/Firestone tires," Summers said Thursday.

In addition to the financial penalties, the settlement contains a permanent injunction that the company may not mislead consumers about the safety of any tire and must be able to back up any safety claims it makes. **AFP**

Thailand laundering billions yearly

BANGKOK—Some 100 billion baht ($2.2 billion) in drug money is laundered annually through financial institutions in Thailand, officials said Friday.

Col. Pheerapan Premaputi, secretary general of the Anti-Money Laundering Office, said according to the United Nations, some $600 billion of ill-gotten funds were laundered worldwide and only 2 percent was seized.

"People do not realize they are supporting money laundering that amounts to $100 a person worldwide and about 100 billion baht of drug money laundered through Thai financial institutions each year," he said.

Pheerapan said his office was collaborating with Thailand's finance ministry to draft a plan that would limit to $10,000 the amount of money brought by individuals in and out of Thailand.

Thai customs officials would have to be notified of amounts greater than that and given an explanation of the money's intended use, he said.

Limits on the amount of Thai currency brought in and out of Thailand are set at 50,000 baht and 500,000 baht for individuals travelling to neighboring countries. **AFP**

Workers in battered US remaining unemployed

WASHINGTON—US workers left jobless in an economy battered after the September hijack attacks are staying that way, as companies put hiring on hold pending better economic times, the government's latest figures showed.

And with the fear of job losses high, consumers have shifted their spending—albeit meager—to discount store chains instead of the more expensive department stores, a trend analysts expect to continue for several months.

"This is a very typical reaction by consumers," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo Bank in Minneapolis, one of many economists who expect the labor picture to weaken further over the next few months.

In its latest report, the labor department said the number of Americans remaining on state unemployment benefits for the last full week in October was at its highest level in more than 18 years.

And while fewer Americans applied for first-time unemployment benefits last week, the level of these initial claims has been substantially higher than levels seen the same time last year.

Stock prices ended mixed on Thursday after a big rally on an interest-rate cut by the European Central Bank fizzled.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended with a modest gain of 33.15 points, or 0.35 percent, at 9,587.52. At the height of the day's rally, the Dow had been up nearly 170 points, or 1.75 percent.

The Nasdaq composite fell 9.76 points, or 0.53 percent, to 1,827.77, after having been up as much as 51 points, nearly 2.8 percent. The broad Standard'& Poor's 500 index edged up 2.74 points, or 0.25 percent, to 1,118.54.

The number of initial jobless claims for the week ended Nov. 3 fell by 46,000 to a seasonally adjusted 450,000, the labor department said. But that was still 31-percent higher than the level reported during the same week last year.

"Not only is hiring at a standstill, but still I think we are seeing more and more layoffs and I don't think the bad news on the employment front is behind us yet," Sohn said.

Even so, the number of workers remaining on jobless benefits, considered a key gauge of employment conditions in a weakened economy, reached its highest level since April 23, 1983, when the economy was struggling out of a recession.

"Folks who have lost their jobs are having a great difficulty finding new jobs. That's something we haven't seen since the last recession," said Mark Vitner, senior economist with Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, NC.

These so-called continued jobless claims rose by 34,000 to 3.72 million for the week ended Oct. 27, the most recent week for which the data were available, the department said.

Vitner expects the weekly jobless claims to peak in December or January, when many of the hundreds of thousands of layoff announcements made since the Sept. 11 attacks become a reality.

"Many of the layoffs that we've been reading in the papers lately haven't even taken effect," he said.

According to the international outplacement tracking firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas, nearly a half a million layoffs have been announced since the September attacks in a broad range of sectors.

Reuters

Hope on safe credit cards in code whiz

SAINT-OMER, France—Coded communications, military and diplomatic secrets and even credit card transactions will become safer in the years ahead, according to a group of French mathematicians whose work is on display in Saint-Omer.

The exhibition in this northwestern town is entitled Enigma, taken from the name of the World War II code machine used by the Nazis. It runs through the history of cryptology, ending with the AES (Advanced Encryption Standard).

AES won a prize last year for a new standard code capable, notably, of protecting Internet payments.

The exhibition, which runs until March 2002, is located in the Coupole, a WWII site from where the Germans planned to launch V2 rockets against Britain. It illustrates and explains security secrets, some of which still baffle the experts.

"Knowing how a padlock works does not mean you can open it," explained Eric Wegzynovski, a researcher and mathematics professor at the northern university of Lille, and one of the four organizers of the exhibition.

Wegzynovski is a specialist in algorithms, linked calculations used in problem-solving operations. He says all mathematicians can try to crack the codes devised by their colleagues, and the failure rate is a test of the codes' viability.

AFP

Jittery investors seen returning

BOCA RATON, Florida—Investors unnerved by terrorism and the slumping economy are on the market's sidelines but will return soon, the heads of the two biggest stock exchanges are predicting.

"Markets are nervous. Investors are on the sidelines," Hardwick Simmons, chair and chief executive of the Nasdaq Stock Market, told members of the Securities Industry Association Thursday at its annual meeting.

Still, public confidence in the Bush administration's anti-terrorism campaign and the Federal Reserve's handling of interest rate policy should reassure investors, Simmons suggested.

Of the absent investors, he said, "I think those people will be back."

Several brokerage and investment firms that were members of the Wall Street trade group lost employees in the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center. At the hardest-hit firm, Cantor Fitzgerald, 657 of the 1,000 or so employees were killed.

The market was shut for four trading days, the longest closure since the 1930s.

Security was beefed up and attendance was down at the association's gathering at a tony Florida resort.

The group was hearing Friday the first speech to a Wall Street audience by Harvey Pitt, chair of the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pitt, a prominent securities lawyer who was President Bush's nominee as SEC chair, was confirmed by the Senate in August and a few weeks later plunged into the crisis that gripped Wall Street, meeting nearly round the clock with the heads of Nasdaq and the New York Stock Exchange and securities industry leaders.

The SEC invoked its emergency powers for the first time ever to ease restrictions on companies' purchases of their own shares, as a way to shore up prices and bring stability.

Late last month, the SEC under Pitt laid out a new policy that gave companies credit for coming forward to report misconduct, such as improper accounting, which could possibly accord them more lenient treatment in return.

Pitt himself promised a gentler relationship with accountants, turning from the adversarial stance of his predecessor, Clinton appointee Arthur Levitt.

Pitt also has said he believes securities laws must be reviewed because many are obsolete and impose an unfair burden on Wall Street and other market participants.

Because the SEC had to deal with the disruption of trading caused by the terror attacks, work on that issue and others—such as reducing stock analysts' conflicts of interest—has been delayed.

Richard Grasso, the NYSE's chair and chief executive, acknowledged Thursday in remarks to the group beamed by satellite that the near-term economic picture "will not be pretty."

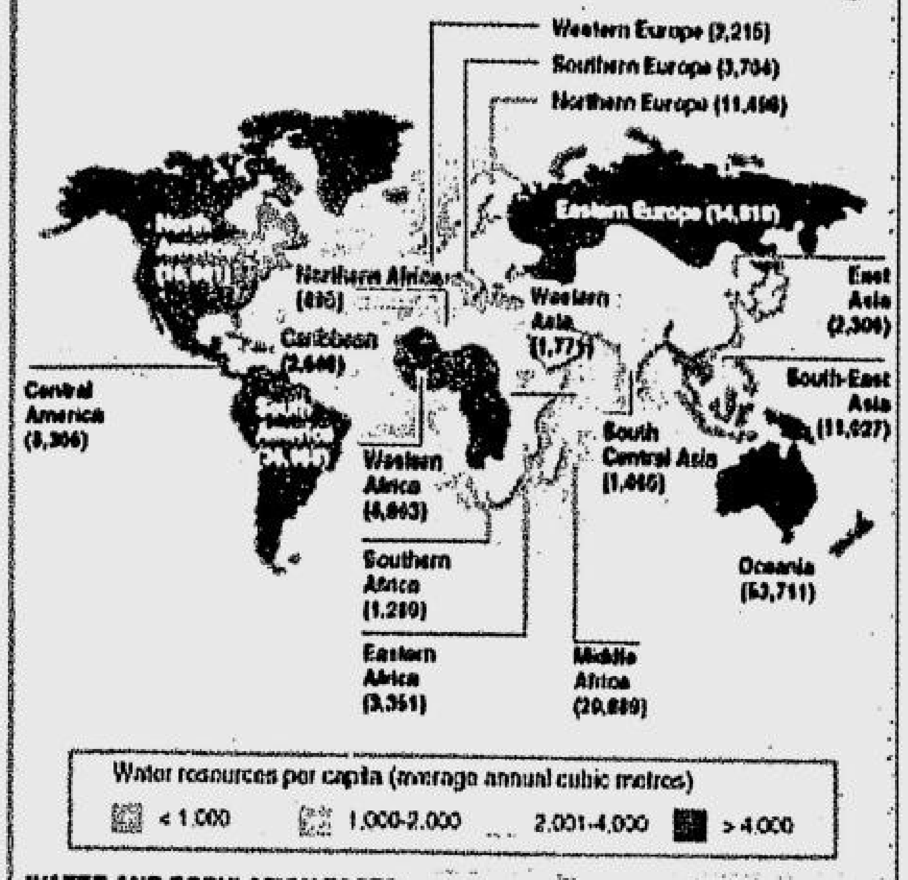
But he cited the market's recovery in recent weeks, saying it reflected investors' positive judgment for the longer term.

AP

DEMAND ON WORLD'S WATER RESOURCES

More than half of the annual available fresh water is being used according to *State of World Population 2001 report*

HOW MUCH WATER PER HEAD



WATER AND POPULATION FACTS

WATER SCARCITY

- 500 million people lived in 31 water-stressed (less than 1,700 cubic metres a person per year) or water-scarce countries (less than 1,000 cubic metres a person per year) in 2001
- By 2050, there will be 3 billion people in 48 such countries
- 4.2 billion or over 45% of the global population will be living in areas below the daily requirement of 50 litres of water per person

WATER TRENDS

- About 2.5% of all water is fresh
- Only 0.5% is accessible ground water or surface water
- Water use has grown six-fold in the last 70 years
- 54% of annual available fresh water is being used
- By 2025 it could reach 70%
- And 90% if world per capita consumption reaches the level of developed countries

CLEAN WATER (in 2000)

- 1.1 billion people do not have access to clean water
- 90-95% of sewage and 70% of industrial wastes are dumped untreated into surface water in developing countries
- Nearly 2.64 billion people in developing countries lack basic sanitation
- Almost a third do not have access to clean water

Source: United Nations Population Division

REUTERS

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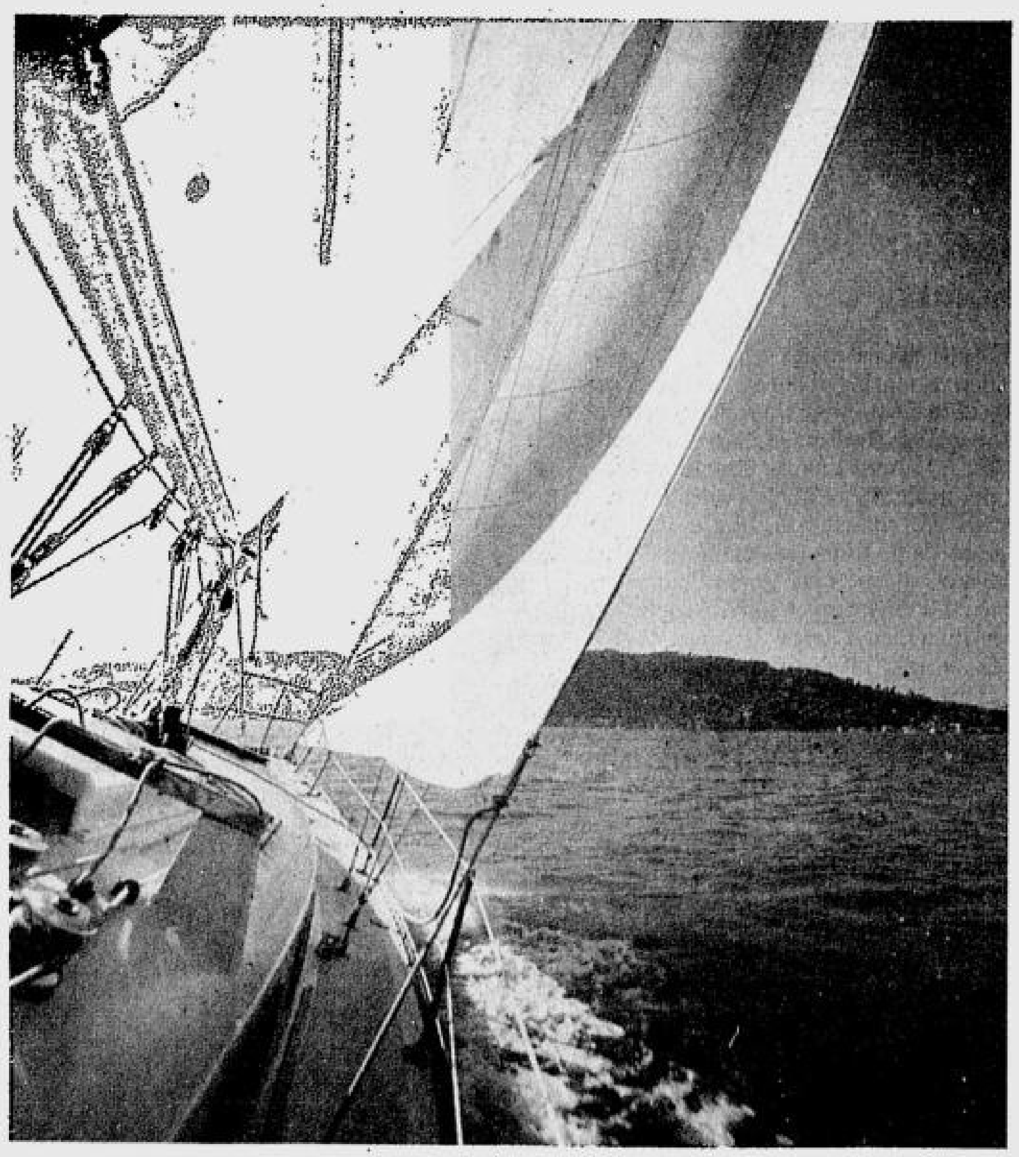

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BMW 325ia Exec	2,700,000	945,000	46,000
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3778-Series of 2001

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Pag-Ibig gears up for membership maturity

PAG-IBIG Fund, one of the country's most stable financial institutions, is gearing up for the refund of provident benefits by members whose membership with the Fund will mature this year. Membership maturity refers to the end of the 20-year period when a member may claim his savings from Pag-Ibig provided he has completed 240 monthly contributions. It is one of the grounds for withdrawal of the members' total savings with the Fund. Total savings is equivalent to the members' personal savings, his employer counterpart contributions (if any) and all dividend earnings.

Members who are qualified to withdraw their provident benefits due to membership maturity may file their applications through their employers or their Fund coordinators. Release of checks shall be through their employers or the cash division of the concerned Pag-Ibig office.

According to Pag-Ibig president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo, Pag-Ibig Fund has long prepared for this event. A reserve fund has been set aside to cover payments due to maturing Pag-Ibig members nationwide estimated at over 340,000.

The Pag-Ibig Provident Savings Program is a fast, easy and affordable way to saving for a member's future. Per Republic Act 7742, all members of the SSS and GSIS who are earning at least P4,000 a month are mandated to join Pag-Ibig. Employers are likewise required to provide counterpart contributions equivalent to 2 percent of the employee's monthly compensation.

A Pag-Ibig member may withdraw his savings upon occurrence of any of the following: membership maturity, retirement, permanent departure from the country, permanent/total disability, insanity, termination from service due to health reasons, or upon death of the member.

POPEYES CHICKEN & BISCUITS OPENS

Leading American fried chicken restaurant Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits is all set to open its doors here in Manila. The occasion was marked by a signing ceremony held at the Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits head office in Makati. Gracing the event were officers of Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits USA Anthony Pavese, international chief operating officer and Putra Wirakesuma, international director of operations, and from Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits Philippines, Bernadine Sly, president and Vicente Gregorio, operations director of Popeyes Philippines. Popeyes Chicken & Biscuits serves its trademark fried chicken as the center of its menu. Popeyes also offers an exciting range of seafood favorites and side dishes.

FOCUS: 17th AD CONGRESS

TARGET:MARKET
intado sa P von

COMFORT ADS SIGNS IN

Comfort Ads Inc. has signed in as sponsor of the 17th Advertising Congress to be held at the Waterfront Hotel in Lahug, Cebu. Shown during the signing are (seated, from left) Congress overall chair Noy Dy-Liacco, Comfort Ads managing director Michelle Quintana, vice chair Angelica Suiza and finance director Jun Alcantara. Standing from left are Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon and ways and means chair Gil Chua.

EN LEGARDA-LEVISTE
Chairperson
GACY TO THE FILIPINO PEO
ARIEL

ARIEL FOREST PARKS UNVEILED

Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, chair of Luntiang Pilipinas Foundation Inc. recently unveiled one of the two new Luntiang Pilipinas Forest Parks adopted by Procter and Gamble (P&G), distributors of environment-safe Ariel laundry detergent. The activity was conducted in simple ceremonies held at the North-bound Exit Loop of the Silangan Interchange along South Superhighway. The other P&G-Ariel adopted Luntiang Pilipinas forest park is located in Dau, Pampanga, along the North Expressway. A total of 12,000 trees will be planted in each park through the sponsorship of Ariel. Photo shows Senator Legarda-Leviste together with P&G general manager Johnip Cua (third from left), Laguna Gov. Ning Lazaro and Laguna local government during the unveiling of the marker at the event.

No Fear introduces its newest clothing member: Jeans

NO FEAR, a unique line of casual wear, sports apparel and accessories, which strike an emotional connection with the bold and athletic, introduces No Fear Jeans, its newest member in the clothing industry.

No Fear Jeans are tailor-fit to meet the clothing standards and needs of its meticulous market: comfortable and stylish. Because the jeans are made mostly of 100 percent 14 oz. cotton denim material, it is designed to offer its customers utmost comfortability and perfect fit. The jeans come in blue and raw black colors finished with enzyme wash look. As styling goes beyond the usual, No Fear Jeans are composed of five pockets, which includes a knife pocket, to give the customers more pocket options. Not only that, quality is assured by double stitches to strengthen every seam, and the use of durable copper zip fly.

No Fear Jeans mixes the contemporary and the classic by having cast metal studs/rivets and a distinctive leather patch proclaiming the No Fear identity and character.

No Fear Jeans' cuts and styles include "Straight," with regular fit, medium rise straight leg eased high; "Relaxed," a relaxed fit, medium rise, more leg and thigh room; and "Loose," with loose-straight, full cut, medium rise, wide straight leg.

No Fear is more than just the sticker seen on bumpers and windows of trendy, sporty vehicles. It conveys an attitude that celebrates athletic competition, excellence and most of all, courage.

No Fear USA was founded in 1990 in Carlsbad, California, by twin brothers Mark and Brian Simo. They built a company whose mission was to celebrate athletic competition through products that carry the No Fear brand.

It is a company that started with motivational T-shirts, which carried various No Fear attitudes or messages. From there, No Fear USA has expanded with specialty products like professional motocross riding gear and competitive automotive racing gear.

With the slogan "Face your fears. Live your dreams," No Fear USA is a comprehensive clothing line that focuses on the mental aspect of sports. It recognizes the need for tremendous mental preparation and conditioning prior to engagement. In every sport, there will be adversity. What No Fear says is that you must believe you can overcome them even before you actually do it.

No Fear's philosophy has transcended the boundaries of sport and can be applied to life's challenges. No wonder that No Fear USA appeals not only to athletes but also those who believe in becoming the best at whatever they have set out to accomplish.

Thus, No Fear Mas was born. The No Fear Man wearing The No Fear Jeans is seen as someone who is cool and has the courage and confidence to take on whatever challenges lie ahead.

No Fear is a mindgame, the game of conquering your fears to achieve your full potential. The No Fear Man wearing the No Fear Jeans is an achiever, overcoming life's challenges with wisdom and courage.

The No Fear line of apparel is available at the following stores: Fusion Boutique (SM Southmall, SM Bacoor, SM Manila, SM Pampanga, Festival Mall Alabang) Shoemart Department Store (Megamall, North Edsa, Centerpoint, Fairview, Las Piñas) Robinson's Ermita, Ever Grand Central, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, The Landmark and Isetann Recto.

PHILIPS AWARDS X-RAGE PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

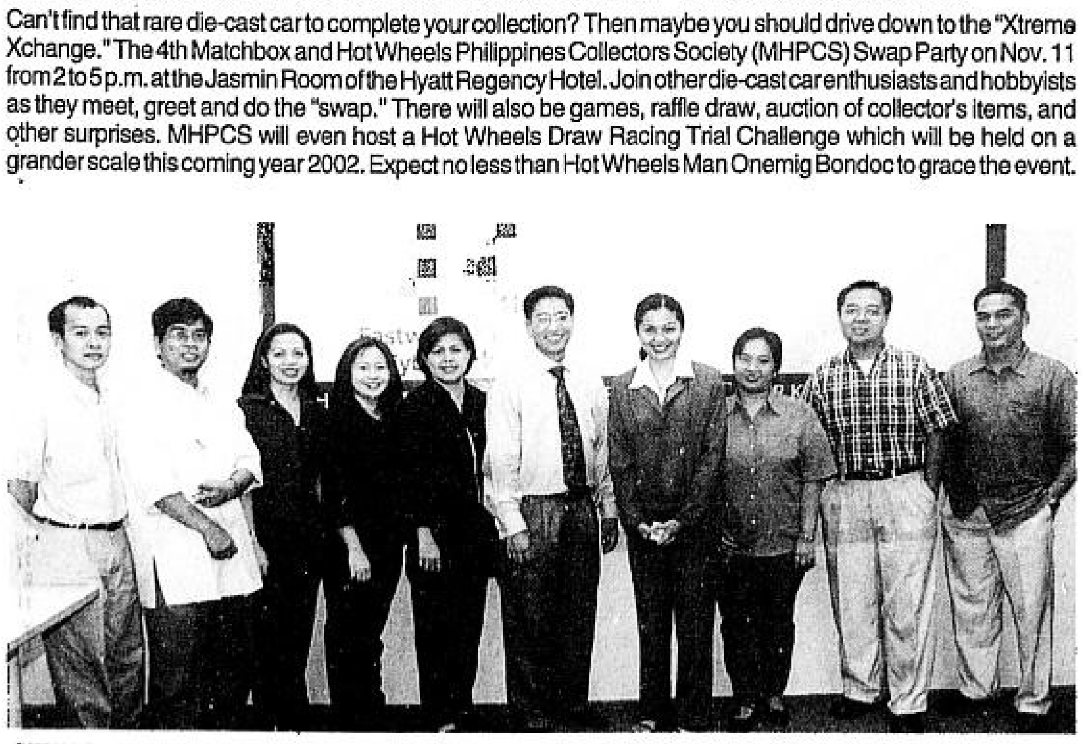
Philips Consumer Electronics, one of the world's leading consumer electronics companies, recently awarded the six winners in the Philips X-Rage X-treme Shots photo contest. The winning photos were culled from hundreds of entries to the contest which was held as part of Philips X-rage, the most explosive extreme games festival ever to hit Manila. The awarding ceremony was held during the opening of the Philips X-rage X-treme Shots photo exhibit at SM Megamall. Shown on photo are (from left) photo contest winners Ernesto Mendoza, JPeter Obligacion, Ramon Esguerra and Revoli Cortez, PCE marketing manager Lea Baterna, PCE vice president and general manager Tony Lim, Evelyn Sergio, representing Dewey Sergio and winner Luis Naguit.

CALTEX LAUNCHES LETHAL WEAPONS

Caltex Revtex, the product range that provides superior performance and high quality motorcycle oils, formally launches its 4-stroke motorcycle oils, Revtex Fully Synthetic 4T and Revtex Super 4T, in an action-packed and well-attended event at the Westin Philippine Plaza recently. In photo are Caltex's product manager for Motorcycle Oils, Rey Trespalacioreal (left), marketing manager Suttipong Wannawanit (right) and general manager for lubricants sales and marketing Brian Drummond (third from left). Joining them are the members of the Caltex Revtex champion team holding their "Lethal Weapons," Glenn Aguilar and Kenneth San Andres (Motorcross), and Wacky del Rosario (Superbike).

DIE-CAST CAR ENTHUSIASTS INVITED TO THE "XTREME XCHANGE"

Can't find that rare die-cast car to complete your collection? Then maybe you should drive down to the "Xtreme Xchange." The 4th Matchbox and Hot Wheels Philippines Collectors Society (MHPCS) Swap Party on Nov. 11 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Jasmin Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Join other die-cast car enthusiasts and hobbyists as they meet, greet and do the "swap." There will also be games, raffle draw, auction of collector's items, and other surprises. MHPCS will even host a Hot Wheels Draw Racing Trial Challenge which will be held on a grander scale this coming year 2002. Expect no less than Hot Wheels Man Onemig Bondoc to grace the event.



CITEM TOURS EASTWOOD CITY CYBERPARK

Officials and staff members of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) recently made a working visit to the Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis, Quezon City. The visit was part of an aggressive promotional initiative by Citem to market the local Information and Communications Technology sector here and abroad. Josie Gonzales, IT division chief of Citem (fifth from left), headed the delegation that paid a call to CyberPark-based WorldWideWeb Corp., Information Technology Solutions Inc. and Nextstage Inc. The Citem had earlier organized an important information technology exhibit dubbed "e-Services Philippines," with the CyberPark as a major sponsor.

BITS Clips

Shell exhibit until Sunday

THE 2001 Shell National Students Art Exhibition is ongoing at the mezzanine floor, Centermall of the Greenhills Shopping Center (behind Greenhills Theater) in San Juan until Sunday, Nov. 11. Admission is free. More than 200 artworks made by budding young Filipino student artists are currently on display and on sale. All proceeds go to the student artists. This year's exhibition sponsors are Epson Philippines Corp., Greenhills Shopping Center, Star Paper, Delpa Specialties, CityLite 88.3, Angel Radyo 1026, Shell Citibank MasterCard, Shellane, Velocity and Helix.

Basic course on fund raising

VENTURE for Fund Raising, a non-profit organization providing consulting, public information, research and training assistance on fund-raising to non-profit organizations, will conduct its 19th Basic Course on Fund Raising from Nov. 13-16, within Metro Manila. The Basic Course on Fund Raising educates participants on the rationale for strategic fund-raising for their organizations, and equips them with the principles, skills and tools needed. The course is the first step in Venture for Fund Raising's four-step financial sustainability program. For more information on this or on other programs and services, call Niña Terol or Rica Lane at 634-8889 to 90, send a fax through 637-3545, or e-mail rica@venture-asia.org.

Christmas painting exhibit

THE GALLERY Ivydell presents a group Christmas painting exhibit art sale today, Nov. 10 at 5 p.m. at the ground level of the Gallery Building, Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village (Creekside), Makati City. The sale will raise funds to support the gallery's free art lessons among less fortunate children under the care of the ABS-CBN Bantay Bata Foundation.

BARBIE IN THE NUTCRACKER HOLIDAY PARADE

It's party time with Barbie. Catch this holiday Barbie look with Barbie's latest fashion statements of Barbie in the Nutcracker collection. See the Barbie Kiddle models as they ramp the stage and do a stage play on the following venues: Rockwell Mall, Nov. 10; SM Bacoor, Nov. 11; Hyatt Hotel, Nov. 18; Dreamscape, Nov. 25; Rustan's Makati, Dec. 8; Worldbex, Dec. 22. Brought to you by Richwell Trading Corp. and Mattel and sponsors like Clover Chips, Goldilocks, Chips Delight, Goldrush kurls, David's Salon, Kameraworld, Wiggles, Jack 'N Jill Pretzels, Nips, Dunkin Lollipop, Swiss Miss Milk Shake, KFC and SM Ice Skating Rink. So kids, come and have fun with Barbie this holiday season.

FOOD STORAGE

JOLLIBEE JOINS WORLD LEADERS BUILD

Jollibee joined other volunteers at the World Leaders Build, a project put together by Habitat for Humanity International to provide decent housing for hundreds of impoverished families. Apart from donating food to other volunteers, Jollibee and its employees have committed to building 40 houses for as many needy families in the different sites identified by Habitat for Humanity.

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MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/direct access rd to FILINVEST Alabang 477m² P4,500/m² Vic Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

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APARTMENT

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MANILA

1BR NR P.GIL •5642878•

3BR 401 VG CRUZ 8315945

PASAY

M TENGCO MALIBAY 8315945

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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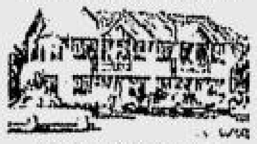
OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, Nov. 11
Initial DP: P 25,000



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Initial DP: P 25,000

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CAR VANS 413-5383

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans 4 Rent 8203894

HI ACE VAN 8252988

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L300/Vans 570-8917(Roger)

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MB100 Call 843-7307

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2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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0917-2544429 Isabel Co

Valle Verde I, Ukay Ukay Bazaar Saturday 17 Nov. 2001 8am-7pm Contact Girlee 671-2565 / 6715714

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Elem Prin'pal Val 09172446926

RECEPTIONIST-GD English Call Laica ASAP •6176407•

SALESPERSONS needed female 18 to 29 yrs old at least 2yrs college 5'4" fluent in English/Tagalog mestiza pretty residing near Duty Free Pasay Call 842-4502/772-1742 ask for Aesta, Gem, Marilyn

Skin Therapists & Doctors

We are an established Publisher of several Trade Magazines.

We are in need of the following, willing to work part-time, working schedule to be agreed upon or full time:

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR to prepare strategy and supervise marketing. He or she must have worked with reputable firms.

ARTIST preferably experienced in layout and preparation of brochures.

Qualified applicants are invited to send-in their bio-data with recent photo indicating their desired compensation package to:

Code: QC-2001-65
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
St. Anthony's Building
Aurora Blvd. corner Oxford Street
Cubao, Quezon City

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Manila, Philippines
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of various Servers as per BSP's minimum configuration:

a.	7 units	Tower Type Servers for ATR, Lotus Notes Servers, and DRP Project Servers
b.	12 units	Tower Type Servers, Internal Servers for IRIS Project with Internal DLT Backup Drive
c.	12 units	Tower Type Servers, External Servers for IRIS Project with Internal DLT Backup Drive
d.	7 units	Rack Mounted Servers

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, Second Floor, 5-Storey Building, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila not later than **November 23, 2001** photocopies of the following documents (Original of Nos. 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2. Year 2000 Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement—Minimum working capital of P1 Million and a networth of P2 Million) and Year 2000 Income Tax Return;
3. Company history/profile;
4. Two (2) sets of original product brochures;
5. ISO 9001 Certificate or equivalent;
6. Certification that the warranty period for the above requirements if for a period of three (3) years;
7. Certification of after-sales service and parts availability for a period of five (5) years; and
8. Certification of the availability of demo units for testing/ evaluation.

Only those who submit/comply with the above requirements and are initially prequalified by the Bank will be invited to submit demo units for evaluation/testing. Also, only those whose demo units passed the product evaluation will be prequalified and invited to attend the pre-bid conference and the bidding which will be held on a later date to be advised to the prequalified suppliers. Bidding documents, including the detailed specifications of the subject requirement, may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

For particulars, please contact the Manager I, Procurement Division III, Administrative Services Department, Room 212, Second Floor, 5-Storey Building, Tel. Nos. 523-1321, 523-2875.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Officer-in-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI – Nov. 10, 2001)

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Monday to Saturday open: 1 PM to 8PM. FIRM International Inc.
Call 687-3982 to 84

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Wanted Female w/College Degree for Sales Executive & Secretarial Job
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RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

• WANTED •
Computer Whole Saler
T:8202777 C:0919-8669171

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Apolinario Molina Antazo is extra judicially settled among her heirs per Doc. # 428, Page # 87, Book # XXV, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Manuel I. Sabado (PDI-Nov.10, 17&24, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL DE LARA VILLAMAYOR has been extra-judicially settled by his heirs on May 31, 2001 under Doc# 70, Page# 16, Book# 12, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Wilfredo T. Albarico of Rizal -PDI 11-3,10,17,2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that an official receipt no. A038024 of Tricom Dynamics, Inc., was lost last November 1, 2001 at Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 5,728 million Yen towards the cost of the Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project, Loan Agreement No. PH-P190 signed on 10 September 1998, and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for Equipment Procurement for the Immediate Improvements of Bacolod and Tacloban Airports.
The Government of the Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Transportation and Communications, now request bids from suppliers for the supply and delivery of the following equipment (the "Goods") in a one-package contract:

TACLOBAN

Item No.	Equipment	Quantity
1	Mechanical Sweeper	1
2	Multi-disk Mower	1
3	Tractor	1
4	Dump Truck	1
5	Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle	3
6	X-ray Scanner for Check-in Baggage	1
7	X-ray Scanner for Hand-carried Baggage	1
8	Spare Parts/Consumables	1 lot

BACOLOD

Item No.	Equipment	Quantity
1	Mechanical Sweeper	1
2	Multi-disk Mower	1
3	Tractor	1
4	Dump Truck	1
5	Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle	3
6	X-ray Scanner for Check-in Baggage	2
7	X-ray Scanner for Hand-carried Baggage	2
8	Spare Parts/Consumables	1 lot

Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans." No party other than the Government of the Republic of the Philippines shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the Government of the Republic of the Philippines will take appropriate measures for finance.

2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The Department of Transportation and Communications now invites sealed bids in a two-envelope system from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of the Goods for the purpose of the Project,
4. The minimum requirement for qualification of a supplier are:
   (a) average annual turnover as prime supplier (defined as billing for works in progress and completed) over the last 5 years of US$ 50 million;
   (b) successful experience as prime supplier in the execution of at least 3 projects of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract within the last 10 years; and
   (c) obtain an exclusive sales agreement for this Project from manufacturers of the fire fighting vehicles and X-ray scanners, which shall have been manufacturing similar equipment for not less than ten (10) years.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

   The Project Director
   Selected Airports (Trunkline) Development Project
   DOTC-Project Management Office
   Unit 7D, 7th Floor, Strata 2000 Building,
   Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
   Telephone: +63 (2) 637-1187
   Facsimile: +63 (2) 637-3061
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased from **19 November 2001** up to **21 November 2001** (from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM), by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 10,000 Pesos or US$ 200 at the DOTC Cashier's Office, 5th Floor, the Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
7. The estimated date of award is on **July 2002.**
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 5,000,000 Pesos and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before 2:00 PM on **16 January 2002** at the DOTC Project Management Office, Unit 7D, 7th Flr., Strata 2000 Building Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter.
9. The Department of Transportation and Communications will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

(Sgd.) **ALAN ADENA TAN**
SPBAC Chairman

(PDI – Nov. 10, 14 & 19, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Space junk

Q. How much space junk is out there orbiting the Earth?

A. The estimate is at least 3.5 million pieces of space debris, ranging in size from half-millimeter metal particles to spacecraft the size of buses. The total weight of this space junk is believed to be around 3,000 tons, and some experts believe it will rise to 12,000 by the year 2010. By then the threat of a collision may make space travel too dangerous to consider. And collisions have occured. In 1983 the windshield on space shuttle Challenger had to be replaced after it was chipped by a 0.2 mm (0.008 in) fleck of paint which was probably traveling at around 36,000 kph. Such a fragment could easily penetrate an astronaut's space suit, and even only slightly larger objects would cause major damage.

For the Record. Appropriately enough, William Shatner, the star of *Star Trek*—and *Rescue 911*—claims to have had his life saved by an Unidentified Flying Object (UFO). He and four friends were on a motorcycle trip in the Mojave Desert in California when he stopped to drink some water. His companions had gone ahead when he discovered, to his dismay, that his bike wouldn't start. He had used up his supply of water, and eventually collapsed in the extreme heat. At that moment, a shiny, sleek craft passed over him, and he had an intuition that he should walk in a certain direction. This trek led him to a gas station and safety. Shatner believes that he had received telepathic messages from the UFO.

Past Forward. This day in 1989, a million East Germans poured into West Berlin, free at last to leave their country without special permission. Bulldozers made new holes in the 45-km Berlin Wall as the joyous crowd flooded the streets of West Berlin, drinking champagne and honking horns till dawn.

WORD WATCH

Pader : a Tagalog mispronunciation of the Spanish *pared*, 'wall.'

PDI – November 10, 2001

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Northern Negros Geothermal Project
The PNOC Energy Development Corporation

PNOC
The Energy Company

1. The PNOC Energy Development Corporation, hereinafter referred to as the PNOC-EDC has received an ODA Loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation, hereinafter referred to as the JBIC, in the amount of Japanese Yen 14,460,000,000 toward the cost of the Northern Negros Geothermal Project, Loan Agreement No. PH-P176, dated March 18, 1997 and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of the loan to payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued. Disbursement of the ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans. No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to Loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC-ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract funded with JBIC-ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. PNOC-EDC intends to prequalify contractors for the following contract under this project. FULL TURNKEY 40 MW NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT PROJECT.
4. It is expected that Invitations to Bid will be made in January 29, 2002.
5. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from any country, in accordance with the Loan Agreement between JBIC and PNOC-EDC.
6. Applicants may obtain the prequalification documents after **November 19, 2001** by calling, writing, faxing, or telexing or by electronic mail:

   Chairman
   Contract Award Committee
   PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
   Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
   Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
   Telephone: (632) 893-6001
   Facsimile: (632) 840-1461
   E-mail: guevara@energy.com.ph
7. The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for FULL TURNKEY 40 MW NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT PROJECT.

   The documents are available for a nonrefundable fee of Philippine Pesos 5,000 by cash or US Dollar 100 by telegraphic transfer, upon receipt of the fee, PNOC-EDC will promptly dispatch the documents by registered airmail but under no circumstances will it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed. Applicants may uplift the documents in person.
8. Submissions of Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

   Chairman
   Contract Award Committee
   PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
   Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio
   Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines

   not later than **January 7, 2002** and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for FULL TURNKEY 40 MW NORTHERN NEGROS GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT PROJECT.
9. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
10. Applicants will be advised, in due course of the results of their applications. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid.

(Sgd.) **SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL**

(PDI – Nov. 10 & 11, 2001)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISAYAS
Miagao, Iloilo, Philippines 5023
Tel. Nos.: 3381534 to 35 (PLDT)

UPV PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR APPLICATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the UPV NET PHASE 2 PROJECT classified as follows:

1. ITEM 1 - Network Backbone (Detailed engineering design, supply installation, testing and documentation)
2. ITEM 2 - Network Equipment (Supply and installation of workstations, servers, Uninterruptible Power Supply and network equipment)

The application for eligibility may be obtained from the UPV Bids and Awards Committee, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration (OVCA), UP Visayas, Miagao, Iloilo from **Nov. 9-13, 2001** during office hours. Bidding documents will be issued to eligible contractors upon payment to the University Cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for ITEM 1, and Two Thousand Pesos for ITEM 2, from **November 19-21, 2001** during office hours.

A Pre-Bid conference is scheduled on **Nov. 26, 2001**; opening of Bids on **Dec. 13, 2001**. The venue of these activities shall be at the Conference Room of the New Administration Building, UPV Miagao campus, Iloilo at 2:00 PM. For further inquiries, please get in touch with the UPV-OVCA through Mrs. Myrna Ballada at telephone nos. 315-8141 or 338-1535.

The University reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or informality contained therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government. The University further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses or losses that may be incurred in connection with the said bidding. In case of failure of bidding, a re-bidding shall be automatically re-scheduled after the announcement of failure of bid, at the same time and place as the first bidding.

(Sgd.) **LORENZA B. PADOJINOG**
Vice Chancellor for Adm. Chair, UPV-PBAC

(PDI – Nov. 6 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City

PHILIPPINES 2000

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Medical Equipment to bid for the same at the Cobalt Building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **November 23, 2001**, Friday, 2:00 PM at the same venue for any clarifications. Opening of the Bids is scheduled on **November 29, 2001**, Thursday, at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue. Late Bidders shall be disqualified.

Instructions to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of at the office of the Chief, Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo, after payment in cash of P300.00 at the Cashier's Office at the main hospital building, from **November 19, 2001** to **November 23, 2001** from 8:00 to 3:00 PM.

The BAC shall award the contracts to suppliers with the lowest calculated bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government. The decision of the BAC is final.

Inquiries may be made with the BAC Secretariat, c/o Mrs. Teresa C. Fajardo at 442-62-30.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL V. FACTORA, M.D., MHA**
Medical Center Chief
BGHMC

(PDI – Nov. 9, 10 & 11, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Parañaque

INVITATION TO BID

The City Government of Parañaque is inviting interested parties / accredited suppliers to participate and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

"PAMASKONG HANDOG PARA SA MAHIRAP PROJECT"

2800 Box of Best Food Mayo Magic 220ml/24
2083 Box of Salad Macaroni (Royal) 400g/35
1845 Box of Spaghetti Noodles (Royal) 450g/35
2800 Box of Fruit Cocktail (Del Monte) 850g/24
1458 Box of Cheese (Quezo) 200g/48
2800 Box of Luncheon Meat (Purefoods) 350g/24
2400 Box of Refill Nescafe (Nescafe) 100g/30
1250 Box of Powdered filled milk (Alaska) 180g/60
1548 Sacks of White Sugar (50kls)
8000 Sacks Sinandoming Rice (50 kls/sack)

All sealed bids will be received by the Committee on Awards on or before 10:00 A.M. and then publicly opened at the City of Conference Room at exactly 2:00 P.M. on **November 23, 2001.**

Interested parties/accredited suppliers may secure the necessary bid documents and information from the Office of the City Mayor.

The City Government of Parañaque reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect contained therein and accept the lowest complying and reasonable bid that is most advantageous to the City Government.

(Sgd.) **JOEY P. MARQUEZ**
City Mayor

(PDI--Nov. 6, 8 & 10, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
MANILA

INVITATION TO BID

Interested suppliers/dealers are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply and delivery of **Office and Printing Supplies and Materials for the Supreme Court.**

Bids of pre-qualified bidders will be received by the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Taft Avenue, Manila before 2:00 p.m. on **December 5, 2001.** At said time and date, sealed quotations submitted will be opened publicly by the Committee on Bids in the presence of the participating bidders and/or representatives at the Second Floor Centennial Building, Supreme Court.

Interested suppliers/dealers who have not previously pre-qualified during the year 2001 may obtain the necessary pre-qualification requirements from the Secretariat, Committee on Bids, Office of the Administrative Services, Supreme Court, which should be submitted on **November 23, 2001** at 2:00 p.m. Only bids of pre-qualified bidders will be entertained at the time of bidding.

Proposal Forms, Terms and Conditions and list of office supplies subject of this particular bidding will be furnished to pre-qualified bidders, after payment of a non-refundable P200.00 fee.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

November 7, 2001.

(Sgd.) **JOSE P. PEREZ**
Chairman
Committee on Bids

(PDI -- Nov. 10, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following residential/commercial/industrial properties on an "As-is-Where-is" basis.

I. SECOND TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM	TERMS
004	1 lot, 14,692 sqm.	Vitas, Tondo Manila	PhP16,000.00	CASH OR INSTALLMENT (5 years @ 18% p.a.)
065-070	6 lots, 240 to 10,995 sqm. With TCTs	Sapang Palay, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP700.00 to PhP1,175.00	CASH

II. FIRST TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM	TERMS
001-013	13 lots, 80 to 225 sqm. With TCTs	Kadungganan Village Project, Sagcahan Tacloban	PhP1,500.00 to PhP2,500.00	CASH
014-016	3 foreclosed apartment units	Hermosa Street San Francisco Del Monte Quezon City	PhP682,000.00 to PhP970,000.00	CASH, with 10% retention payable upon availability of title

Interested parties may purchase one/any or all of the properties offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the COINBAC c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Diliman, Quezon City. For Tacloban properties, bidding materials are available in the Kadungganan Project Office. For inquiry, please call Evelyn V. Ramos or Neil A. Subido at the following telephone numbers 923-0390, 922-3001 and 929-4581 local 302-303.

SCHEDULE	ALL PROPERTIES (Except Tacloban)	Kadungganan, TACLOBAN
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	November 12 to 22, 2001 until 5:00 p.m. CIED, Mezzanine	November 19 to December 4 until 5:00 p.m. Kadungganan Village Project Calanipawan Road, Sagcahan District, Tacloban City
B. Pre-Bid Conference	November 18, 2001 10:00 a.m. Operations Center Third Floor, NHA Building	December 4, 2001 11:00 a.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	November 26, 2001 up to 12 noon Operations Center	December 6, 2001 up to 12 noon KVP Office, Tacloban City
D. Opening of Bids	November 26, 2001 1:30 p.m. Operations Center	December 6, 2001 2:00 p.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
& Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI – Nov. 10 & 17, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City

Fax No. 8954024
Tel. Nos. 8976682
8901332

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **FREERIDERS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION** with address at Bo. Pakna-an, Zone Paliya, Mandaue City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended by Republic Act 7918 as New Export Producer at a capacity of 1.68M pieces per year of bag handles, 100M pieces per year of buttons, 100M pieces per year of fashion accessories and 4.5M pieces per year of novelty/gift items and with proposed plant site at Bo. Pakna-an, Zone Paliya, Mandaue City has been officialy accepted on October 10, 2001 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **CHITA O. ANGELES**
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI – Nov. 10, 2001)

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"I've topped the wind-swept heights.... put out my hand, and touched the face of God!"

Col. Eutiquio B. de los Reyes PAF (Ret)

PAF Flying School Class '53A
peacefully joined our Lord on November 7, 2001 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Paz**; children **Jojo**, **Gil** and **Vicky**, **Mandy** and **George Sanchez**, **Lala** and **Marty Clark**, **Andy**, **Dong** and **Joan**, and **Anton**; brothers, sister, in-laws, nephews, nieces, all relatives and friends whose lives he touched with his care and compassion request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel, Don Bosco, Makati.

Necrological services will be held on Monday, November 12, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lady of Peace Chapel, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 13 (after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Lady of Peace Chapel) at high noon at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

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"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Cor. 5:8

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MANUEL "Lo Bon Pok" S. LO, SR.

of Haring, Canaman, Camarines Sur

November 25, 1925 - November 2, 2001

His bereaved wife **Rosario**; children **Jaime & Rosario, Rogato & Josephine, Manuel Jr. & Rosita, Aquiles & Cherry, Ceres & Ramon Lao, Susan & Robert Riccardi, Shirley**; grandchildren **Jeremie Janssen & Meline, Jerald, Jennifer & Nickson Crescini, Jeffrey, Jennette, Russ Jason, Ryan Jeffrey, Julie Rochelle, Alvin & Jacqueline, Christy, Alessa Marie, Randolph, Cherie Ann, Aquiles Jr., Sharlene Marie, Timothy Josef**; great grandchildren **Jeline Janssen, Jericho Janssen, Justine Anne, Nicky Jen**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Joseph School Chapel, Naga City.

Interment will be on Monday, November 12, 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph School Chapel, Naga City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones the following establishments can help you.

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LEONARDA ACTAS RAMIREZ

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 8, 2001
at the age of 87.

Her bereaved children **BOY** and **TITA**, **BABY** and **LETTY**, **JUN** and **LILY**, **ODETTE**, **LENETTE**, **POTEET** and **BEDA**, **MITCHOY**; grandchildren, brother, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment to be announced later.

CARD OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

VIRGINIA E. S. RICALDE

who joined his Creator on October 27, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt thanks and grateful appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, donation and messages of sympathy, visited and kept vigil, attended necrological services and funeral rites, and to all those who, in countless other ways, condoled, helped and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

May the Almighty God bless you all.

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101 years

Luisa Valderrama Vda. de Jover, OCDS

October 10, 1913 — November 7, 2001

Wife, Mother, Lola, Grandlola, Aunt, Teacher,
Accountant, Church Worker Extraordinaire

*Peacefully joined **Papa Joaquin** (†) and **Toto George** (†) in the bosom of our Creator on November 7, 2001 after having lived a full 88 years.*

Please pray with us for the eternal repose of their souls.
Mama lies in state at Cosmopolitan Funeral Parlor, Camus Street., Davao City.

She will be laid in her final resting place after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Davao Memorial Park Chapel, Matina, Davao City.

In loving memory from,

Jinky ✧ Evelyn ✧ Rose and Andy Hayad ✧ Nena and Oca (†) Abcede ✧ Cecile and Cesar Ansaldo ✧ Linda and Rudy Lagera ✧ Sony and Vic Chin ✧ Jun and Gladys Jover ✧ grandchildren ✧ great grandchildren ✧ relatives ✧ and other loved ones.

RUFO ELEGADO ODAVAR

of Sta. Elena, Baras, Camarines Sur

Born on November 8, 1931
Died on November 7, 2001

His bereaved wife **Anastacia Estoy Odavar**; children **Andre**, **Maryann** and **Franklin**; son-in-law **Stephen** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. Interment will be on November 13, 2001 at Nabua Catholic Cemetery.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

U.N. REPORT

Earth feeling strain of growing population

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

THE YEAR is 2050. Looking from a spaceship window, Earth looks dull and gray—a far cry from the radiant blue orb it used to be. The rising sea level has changed its face, too. Due to global warming, the melting polar ice caps have placed a large portion of Florida, parts of Africa, central Europe, the Indian coast and 30 percent of the Pacific islands under water.

Because of water and air pollution, the oceans are relatively barren and the atmosphere is filled up with carbon monoxide cloud. Fresh water is scant. In almost every corner of the globe, woodlands and prairies have been converted to farmland or have been paved to give way to cities, suburbs and malls. More than 80 percent of the tropical rainforests cover is gone. One-third of all species of mammals, birds, butterflies, plants and sea creatures are extinct.

World population has breached the nine billion mark. Quality of life has deteriorated as tens of millions stand on the brink of death due to famine, war and disease.

This is a startling scenario worthy of a Hollywood apocalyptic film. And it would be easy to dismiss, were it not for the uncomfortable fact that these forecasts are based on various studies by different organizations and sectors of society including the United Nations.

Balance of nature

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), implementing and adequately funding internationally agreed actions to reduce poverty, empower women and promote social development would be essential to avert this scenario.

In its State of World Population 2001 report, the UNFPA warned that increasing population and consumption are altering the planet on an unprecedented scale.

"Human activity has affected every part of the planet, no matter how remote, and every ecosystem, from the simplest to the most complex. Our choices and interventions have transformed the natural world, posing both great possibilities and extreme dangers for the quality and sustainability of our civilizations, and for the intricate balances of nature," the report warned.

The UNFPA said the world population has doubled to 6.1 billion since 1960, with growth mostly in poorer countries. And it is projected to increase by 50 percent, or about 9.3 billion by 2050.

The present population is already making an impact on the environment as more and more resources are used, with more intensity, than ever before.

Signs of stress are everywhere: destroyed natural habitats, threatened species, degraded soil, polluted air and water and melting ice caps.

Malthusian principle

English economist Thomas Robert Malthus saw this coming 200 years ago. In his work "Essay on the Principle of Population," he said the population tended to increase faster than the means of subsistence. This results in an inadequate supply of the goods supporting life unless war, famine, or diseases intervened or the increase of population is checked.

Today, population in developing countries, the Philippines included, is rapidly increasing, putting a strain on natural resources such as minerals, fuel supply, water and arable land. Food supplies, health and medical care, housing and education will all be adversely affected as the level of technology cannot keep pace with the population explosion.

The Philippines has one of the fastest growing populations, with three babies born each minute, or 1.7 million Filipinos added each year. From an annual population growth rate of 2.32 percent during the first half of the 1990s, it grew to 2.36 between 1995 and 2000. At present, the population stands at 76.5 million and if the growth rate continues, the country's population will double in 29 years, according to the Commission on Population (Popcom).

Popcom said the high population growth rate is compounded by poverty that affects 40 percent of the population. This figure translates to some 5.2 million Filipino families living below the poverty line or 30.6 million Filipinos whose incomes cannot sustain their food and nonfood needs.

Overexploiting resources

Popcom executive director Tomas Osias said the country's high growth rate and the increasing number of impoverished Filipinos were endangering the country's ecological balance.

"Poverty will drive millions of poor Filipinos to overexploit what remains of their resources," Osias said.

The UNFPA report cited the Philippines as one of the six countries, which include China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Thailand, that account for three quarters of deforestation in the Asia-Pacific region.

This deforestation is threatening to destroy a major portion of the country's wildlife: 80 species of birds, 44 species of mammals and eight species of reptiles.

Recommendations

The UNFPA report submitted a broad range of actions that nations should take to address the promotion of human rights, eradication of poverty, improvement of reproductive health and the achievement of balance between population and development needs and environmental protection.

- Implement the global consensus agreement of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

The ICPD in 1994 agreed on a program of action in the area of population and development to promote sustainable economic growth, guarantee human rights, including the right to reproductive health, and to protect the environment. Its full implementation will give an impetus to economic and social development that will directly and indirectly promote sustainable development and improve the quality of life of everyone.

- Provide incentives for the dissemination, further development and use of more sustainable production processes.

Neither industrial nor developing countries make full use of available lower-impact "green" technologies in agriculture and industry. Providing countries with the information and technical assistance needed to adopt new technologies could significantly improve health, productivity and environmental quality at relatively low cost.

- Improve the information base for more sustainable population, development and environment practices.

Policy priorities can be clarified when needs are documented and the returns for particular interventions and costs of inaction are clear. Information about available resources can speed up implementation.

- Implement international agreements to reduce poverty and promote social development.

There is a global consensus on some key elements for progress: encouraging local participation in decision-making, addressing equity concerns, including gender equity and income differentials, and creating partnerships that include the private and the public sectors. Rural development policies can reduce rural-to-urban migration and help mitigate the environmental impact of new rural settlements. Changes in land tenure policies can ensure equity, reduce resource and migration pressures and limit the clearing of new land for agriculture.

World megacities

(population in millions)

1975		2000		2015 (projected)	
Tokyo	(19.8)	Tokyo	(26.4)	Tokyo	(26.4)
New York	(15.9)	Mexico City	(18.1)	Mumbai	(26.1)
Shanghai	(11.4)	Mumbai	(18.1)	Lagos	(23.2)
Mexico City	(11.2)	São Paulo	(17.8)	Dhaka	(21.1)
São Paolo	(10.0)	Shanghai	(17.0)	São Paulo	(20.4)
		New York	(16.6)	Karachi	(19.2)
		Lagos	(13.4)	Mexico City	(19.2)
		Los Angeles	(13.1)	New York	(17.4)
		Kolkata	(12.9)	Jakarta	(17.3)
		Buenos Aires	(12.6)	Kolkata	(17.3)
		Dhaka	(12.3)	Delhi	(16.8)
		Karachi	(11.8)	**Metro Manila**	**(14.8)**
		Delhi	(11.7)	Shanghai	(14.6)
		Jakarta	(11.0)	Los Angeles	(14.1)
		Osaka	(11.0)	Buenos Aires	(14.1)
		Metro Manila	**(10.9)**	Cairo	(13.8)
		Beijing	(10.8)	Istanbul	(12.5)
		Rio de Janeiro	(10.6)	Beijing	(12.3)
		Cairo	(10.6)	Rio de Janeiro	(11.9)
				Osaka	(11.0)
				Tianjin	(10.7)
				Hyderabad	(10.5)
				Bangkok	(10.1)

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

INQGRAPHIC/ESAMBO

Frozen cola and matchstick speedboat, a reprise

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(Last of two parts)

A MONTH ago, we featured a question by reader Benedict Ouano [baouano@edsamail.com.ph] which pertained to a child's toy: What makes a boat made of matchsticks (dabbed with soap) move? (Sept. 8, 2001). I confessed to being stumped by it, and to my delight, several readers immediately wrote offering their explanations.

Albert Ching [aching@iname.com] clarifies the setup: "The reader did not specify how the boats were constructed, but I think I have an idea. I remember reading about an experiment using a matchstick, some powder and a bit of soap. First you make a lengthwise notch on one end of the matchstick, so that it is now shaped like a Y. Get a bit of soap and wedge it between the legs of the matchstick. Get a tub of water and sprinkle some powder on top. When you place the matchstick on top of the water, it will glide across the surface. I forgot the scientific explanation, but it has something to do with surface tension. I guess the effect is similar when you drop some detergent powder on oily water."

Jeffrey S. Wee [jwee@smg.sanmiguel.com.ph] says, "I think what he wanted to convey was toy boats made from matchbox (the case of the matchsticks). I played with them before, too. The simplest design could be just like a miniature plywood, but whether matchbox or matchstick, one thing is certain—the boats float. The small amount of slightly dissolved detergent bar at the tail of the boat acts as the motor engine that thrusts the boat forward. I believe it's the agent in the soap that reacts with water and thus creates tiny bubbles. The bubbling and the bursting is somehow strong enough to push materials as light as a matchstick."

Dr. Roy B. Tumlos of the National Institute of Physics, UP Diliman [troyb@nip.upd.edu.ph] offers the following explanation. "I can only see two possible reasons partially melted soap was used. One, the reader used it to make the boat glide through water much more easily (soap has oil and therefore, sticking or adhesion between matchstick and water is lessened). Or two, it was applied on one portion of the boat to act perhaps as a propellant. While the soap mixes with water, it might push the boat forward. I guess the first explanation is better."

Also at the same Institute, Dr. Marilyn A. Hui [marilyn@nip.upd.edu.ph] answers, "With soap on one end of the stick, there is a difference of surface tension between the two ends, which makes the boat move."

A reader who does not wish to be identified actually did the experiment. He reports, "My guess is that the boat is simply a wooden matchstick placed on the surface of the water. Of course, the wooden matchstick should float, as most matchstick wood has a specific gravity of less than one, but in my quick experiment, it appears that the mass of a wooden matchstick is so small that it stays on top of the water layer, due to surface tension. Soap has the property of reducing surface tension, so by placing a drop of soap at one end of the matchstick, the surface tension is reduced at that end. The higher surface tension on the other end of the matchstick would pull the boat in that direction. The experiment did work, but it does not take very much soap pollution in the water for the soap propulsion system to stop working! Oars will work much better."

I would also like to thank the following readers for their explanations: Amelita T. Taco of Muntinlupa High School [Eliza_May-T._Taco/amtg@bpi.com.ph]; Bong Abecina [bong_abecina@yahoo.com]; Melanie Junio [abjunio@yahoo. com]; Lyn Dimaano [brains@info.com.ph]; Edward Chua Cham [edcham@mozcom.com]; Karlo Atienza [determinants@earthlink.net]; Albert Ching [aching@iname.com]; Andrea Mae Quizon [andi_quizon@hotmail.com]; Elle [elleyadan@my.smart.com.ph]; Galiw-an [galiw-an@mozcom.com]; Weng Lopez [rjl@philonline.com]; Enrico Obias [eobias@mydestiny.net]; Walter Gillmore [wally@digitelone.com]; Mike Cruz [mike_cruz@edsamail.com.ph]; Wilfredo Painitan [willy_painitan@yahoo.com]; Hazel Dacillo [hjdacillo@yahoo.com]; Alfredo Matanglawin [otrinidad@nyc.IT.com]; Marilyn A. Hui [marilyn@nip.upd.edu.ph]; and Frodo Baggins (who is one of my favorite hobbits, by the way) [jc040875@yahoo.com].

Ecological issues up at confab

THE FETUS as a Patient Institute, Philippines will be holding its 10th annual convention today and tomorrow at the Manila Midtown Hotel, with the theme "Environmental Threats to Perinatal Health."

Issues and controversies regarding global warming and its effect on health, mad cow disease, water pollution; genetic effects of pesticides, phenylpropanolamine (PPA), herbal food additives, genetically modified organisms (GMO), breastmilk contaminants, effects of stress on pregnancy and fetus will be discussed.

ASK THE DENTIST

PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Stained teeth

I HAVE had these brown stains on my teeth ever since I can remember. Maybe my mom took some medication when she was pregnant with me. I already bleached them but not much happened. Is there something else I can do?

Susan

You can try veneers. A veneer is very conservative compared to a crown where the whole tooth is made very small. For a veneer, the tooth is shaved off only one mm on the stained or front areas. There are two types. One is a white filling veneer while the other is a porcelain veneer. They are very effective. The difference is in the cost and the gloss. Porcelain has more gloss than the white filling. Porcelain also costs more but then again the white filling veneer has a tendency to absorb stain and you might need to replace it every couple of years. Veneers are getting popular because they can even enhance the shape of any odd looking or slightly misaligned tooth you may have, leading to a very good cosmetic result.

(Dr. De Castro, a UP College of Dentistry graduate, is a cosmetic and general dentist licensed in the Philippines and the United States. Questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

Affordable delivery kits for moms now available

IN A BID to curb pregnancy-related deaths, especially due to unsterilized delivery at home, the Department of Health (DOH) has made safe home delivery kits (SHDKs) available in government medical facilities in prioritized areas across the country.

An SHDK is a handy kit containing the most basic instruments and supplies needed by the birth attendant during the baby's delivery. SHDKs are for the personal use of the mother and are different from the obstetric kit carried by midwives.

An SHDK contains a scalpel, an umbilical cord clamp, a bottle of povidone-iodine 10 percent solution, 10 pieces of 10 x 10 cm sterile compress gauze, and sterile surgical gloves.

The scalpel may be substituted with a new and sterilized razor blade No. 20, while the clamp may be substituted with a piece of sterilized crochet thread. These materials must be properly sterilized and kept untouched until use during delivery.

Home delivery

Even though safe maternity clinics are now accessible in many parts of the country, many women still prefer to give birth at home where nearly two-thirds of all births are done.

However, the risk of infection is high because the materials used are often unsterilized and the surrounding environment is not germ-free.

In addition, only about one-third of pregnant women receive tetanus toxoid during pregnancy, leaving many women prone to tetanus infection.

Having an SHDK on hand will ensure that wherever a mother delivers, the instruments and materials to be used are clean and sterile.

Affordable price

The SHDKs can be obtained at very affordable price from government hospitals and rural health units. These are also available at the lying-in clinics and maternity waiting homes that the DOH has built in remote areas with rising incidence of maternal deaths.

The distribution of SHDKs in selected areas of the country forms part of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project of the DOH.

The case of the sleepy head

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

BOBOY L. was fired from his job because of this problem. His wife, Lina, made her sleep on the couch because of the same problem. In other words, his life became utterly miserable because of this annoying and potentially life-threatening condition that is most often misunderstood. This is the problem of sleep apnea.

Owing its name to a Greek word *apnea,* meaning "want of breath," sleep apnea is a serious sleep disorder in which breathing stops for a few seconds and long enough to decrease the amount of oxygen in the blood and brain while carbon dioxide increases. This may occur dozens of times during the night, and the person may partially awaken when it happens, preventing restful, continuous sleep.

Sleep apnea occurs in all age groups and both sexes but is relatively more common in men. It is reported that 4 percent of middle aged men and 2 percent of middle aged women have sleep apnea with resulting excessive daytime sleepiness. People most likely to have sleep apnea include those who are obese, snore loudly, have high blood pressure, and those who have narrowed throats and upper airways. Sleep apnea has been shown to run in some families, suggesting a possible genetic factor.

Accompanying symptoms of sleep apnea include snoring, holding one's breath while sleeping, waking up gasping for air, headaches in the morning, excessive grogginess and desire to sleep during the day. Many times, a person with apnea will fall asleep at work—or worse, while driving!

For Boboy, this condition has become worse since he started leading a stressful life as a media production executive. Because of the nature of the job, he worked long hours. He also gained weight because he developed the habit of eating while working, especially when under stress.

As he put on more weight though, eating and drinking lots of coffee did not seem to keep him awake anymore. During location shoots, when everyone was busy preparing and he was needed the most, he could be heard snoring in one corner. His boss warned Boboy several times for these frequent naps at work. No one, not even Boboy, realized that his sleepiness was actually a disorder that, if remained untreated, could be fatal.

Disturbed sleep

Boboy's sleepiness during daytime could be directly attributed to his disturbed sleep at night. In any given night, Boboy would be noted to stop breathing several times per hour. This is referred to as "apneic episodes." These breathing pauses are almost always accompanied by snoring in between the apneic episodes. Not everyone who snores though has this condition. The frequent interruptions of a deep, restorative sleep often lead to early morning headaches and excessive daytime sleepiness.

ILLUSTRATION L:ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

At home, his wife always complained of Boboy's snoring and she refused to sleep beside him. This strained their relationship very much. Their intimate moments progressively became a rarity. He did not seem to mind because he was fast asleep as soon as his head touched the pillow. During weekends, he could sleep from 10 to 12 hours but there were times when he would suddenly wake up gasping for air. He kept thinking that this was just because of fatigue from work.

Boboy did not think that his sleeping problem would cost him his job. The last straw came when he kept dosing off during a crucial story meeting. Even after drinking several cups of coffee, his eyelids kept drooping and he could not stay awake. Soon after, he was asked by his boss to find another job.

On the verge of collapse

Suddenly, Boboy's life seemed to be on the verge of collapse. He never imagined that he would find himself one day with no job and a failing marriage. A friend advised him to see a sleep disorder specialist. A thorough clinical and laboratory evaluation by the specialist confirmed that Boboy had sleep apnea.

Certain mechanical and structural problems in the airway cause the interruptions in breathing during sleep. In some people, airway obstruction may occur when the tongue relaxes during sleep. When the muscles of the soft palate and the uvula (the small fleshy tissue hanging from the center of the back of the throat) relax and sag, the airway may also become blocked, making breathing more laborious and noisy.

Sleep apnea can also occur in obese people when an excess amount of tissue in the airway causes it to be narrowed. With a narrowed airway, the person labors to breathe, but air cannot freely flow into or out of the nostrils or mouth. Unknown to the person, this results in heavy snoring, periods of no breathing and frequent arousal during his sleep.

Although it is not known with certainty if there is a cause and effect relationship, sleep apnea has been associated with high blood pressure by some medical investigators. Risk for heart failure, stroke and pulmonary insufficiency may also increase in those with this problem.

Change in lifestyle habits

Boboy realized that his sleeping problem was a lot more serious than he thought it was. "So doctor, what do I have to do?" he asked his doctor apprehensively.

He was advised to change his lifestyle habits. First and foremost, he needed to lose weight. All sleep apnea patients who are overweight should attempt a weight-reducing program because losing weight helps reduce snoring if not stopping it completely. Even a 10 percent weight loss can significantly reduce the number of apneic events for most patients.

Next, his doctor restricted his coffee-drinking. Excessive use of caffeinated products can alter the sleeping pattern and aggravate the instability of sleep. Alcoholic drinks, tranquilizers or sedatives should also be avoided.

Patients with sleep apnea may also be prescribed nasal continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP). A light device worn like an oxygen mask supplies a steady stream of air and oxygen through the nose. The device applies sufficient air pressure to keep the airway open during sleep thus preventing apneic episodes.

In rare and severe situations, a tracheostomy may be needed. This is a surgical procedure that creates a permanent opening into the windpipe through the neck.

Boboy has lost a lot of excessive weight and complying strictly with all his doctor's advice and prescriptions, his sleep apnea has considerably improved. He learned his lessons well and he has looked at this event in his life as a blessing in disguise. He no longer has to deal with the stress of his previous job and he is now concentrating on putting up his own photography studio near his home. In this way, he can spend more quality time with his family and give his failing relationship with his wife a shot in the arm.

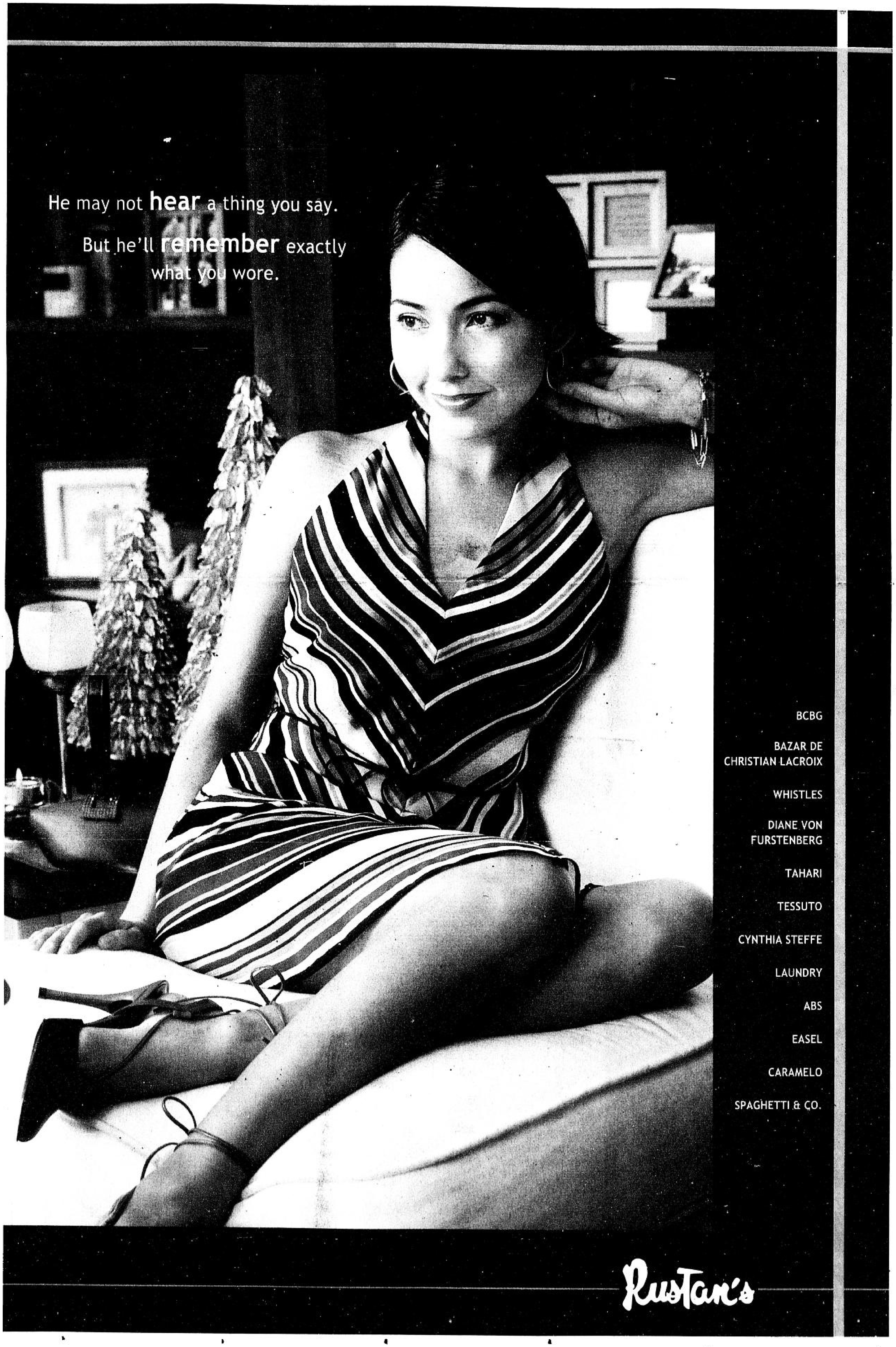
(Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology and the current chair of its Adult Specialty Board. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.)

MARGARITA LIBORO DELGADO, Editor

all about élan

[éla] *flair, distinction, class*

HOWARD BORJA, Art Director

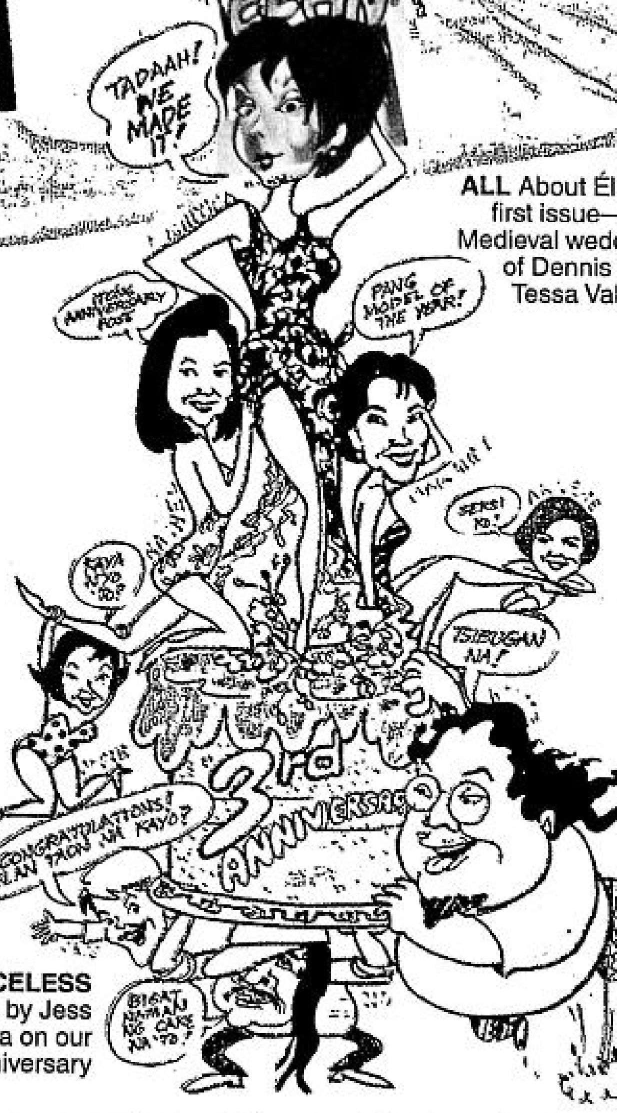

He may not **hear** a thing you say.
But he'll **remember** exactly what you wore.
BCBG
BAZAR DE CHRISTIAN LACROIX
WHISTLES
DIANE VON FURSTENBERG
TAHARI
TESSUTO
CYNTHIA STEFFE
LAUNDRY
ABS
EASEL
CARAMELO
SPAGHETTI & CO.
Rustan's

"Especially during upheaval, unleashing creative life is a sacred duty." - *Clarissa Pinkola Estes, PhD*

Adieu Élan, Hola España!

BY CONCHITINA SEVILLA BERNARDO

ALL About Élan's first issue—the Medieval wedding of Dennis and Tessa Valdes


TADAAH! WE MADE IT!
PANG MODEL OF THE YEAR!
ÉLAN
TSIBUGAN NA!
3rd ANNIVERSARY
CONGRATULATIONS! ÉLAN 3 TAON NA KAYO?
BIGAT NAMAN NG CAKE NA 'TO!

A PRICELESS caricature by Jess Abrera on our third anniversary

LIFE is full of mixed emotions. Goodbyes are painful and hellos are joyful. I close a marvelous, creative, chapter in my life with a tinge of sadness, to embark on a new and wonderful adventure with anticipation and eagerness.

Élan was conceived some 7 1/2 years ago when the Philippine Daily Inquirer welcomed a different sort of supplement that would give advertisers an alternative to print ads—the soft-sell advertorials. Both Élan layout artist, **Howie Borja** and I recall, (with amusement,) the old PDI building at Romualdez Street where the mice and cockroaches kept us company as we took our shift at midnight after the daily paper had been put to bed. We had to wait for our turn then. Computers were just emerging and Pagemaker was unheard of. "Windows" were simply dusty glass that smudged and let the night air in through the cracks. Layout meant cutting and pasting words by hand, which our "paste-up stripper" **Inocencio "Cio" Francisco** did with much expertise. Homemade cheese pimiento sandwiches were the order of the night as we worked till dawn.

The Bride's Maids had invented a new consultancy and they were the first to revive weddings and engagements with their section. They called it "Spoken For" for the announcements, and "They Did" for the weddings. They also had a special question-and-answer portion called "Ask the Bride's Maids." Élan was different with big bright colored pictures that had to be color separated in Caloocan and delivered by motor scooter to PDI. When the colors were not right they had to be returned and re-done. That meant nerve-wracking deadlines, as Jun Flores (PDI Production Manager then) had a sign up screaming "Deadlines wait for no one!" That was, so to speak, my 'baptism of fire" to the newspaper world. How I loved every moment of it!

OATHTAKING with Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo at the Mansion House in Baguio. From left are Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, President GMA, Ambassador to Spain Joseph Delano Bernardo and Conchitina Sevilla Bernardo.

Now I would like to pass the torch to **Margarita Liboro Delgado**. I know I leave my 'baby' in good hands. This issue will be her first editorial experience and my last. At least for the meantime. You see there is yet another task to embark on.

In the autumn of my life, I was pretty sure there would not be any more surprises. Yet there is so much still ahead. My husband **Joseph Delano Bernardo** has been appointed Ambassador to Spain with concurrent accreditation to Morocco and Andorra. I will, of course, accompany him. It is almost a replay of some 35 years ago when we left for Spain two weeks after our wedding, and started our married life in Barcelona where he was completing his MBA, at the Universidad de Navarra's Instituto de Estudios Superiores de la Empresa (IESE). Now we will return. Slightly graying in the temples, perhaps, and a little less energetic, but not lacking in enthusiasm. This time, we journey to do our share for the country we love so much. "Life has been generous to us." **Lani**, my husband has said, "It is payback time." We are grateful for the trust and confidence that **Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo** has given us, and together we will work toward representing the Philippines in Spain in the best manner we know. This is a privilege and a pleasure. Life, indeed, is full of surprises!

PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

CHRISTMAS is always about the Nativity. No house is without its Christmas "Belen." Made of lightweight composite stone.

A LOVELY centerpiece with cascading grapes and feathered birds, which is guaranteed to liven your table.

Have A Berde Christmas!

GREEN towering trees in an inner fountain courtyard glitttering with lights.. A seven-feet-tall double layered fountain is surrounded by different sizes of Christmas trees ranging from four feet to nine feet in height.

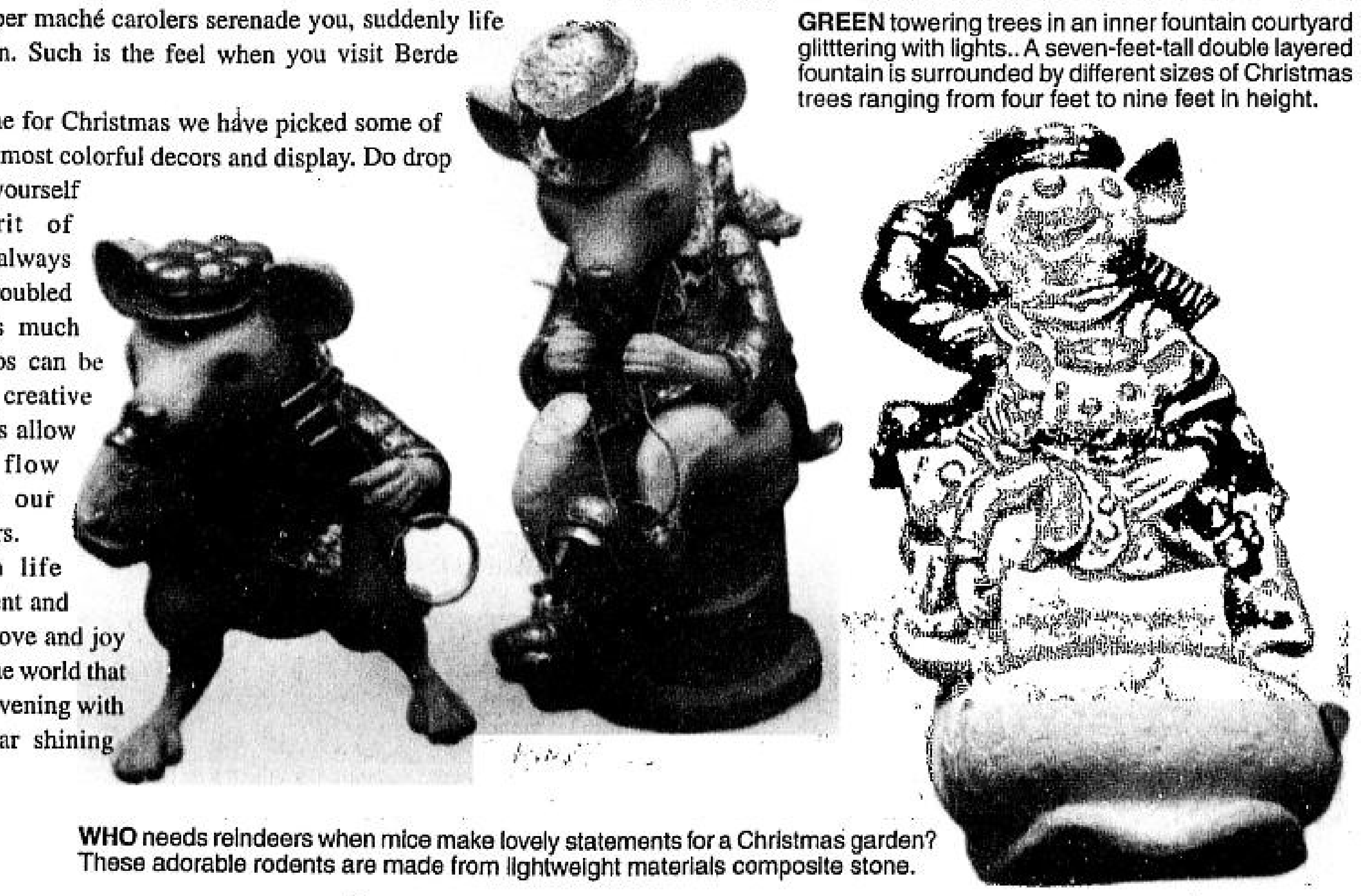
A BRIGHT red Christmas tree with carolers. Carolers lend a festive air accented by Christmas balls and other decors made of glass. On top of carolers are garlands and artistic wreaths of evergreens.

IT IS sheer delight walking into Berde Plants located at the service road going to the Sucat area. Guaranteed to uplift you when you feel low because the times are tough, and the world is on the brink of…well, whatever it is we humans concoct to make life all the more complicated and difficult.

What could be more lively than Christmas! When the red poinsettias and golden wreaths come out, and the trees are lit with a hundred lights, while paper maché carolers serenade you, suddenly life is all right again. Such is the feel when you visit Berde Plants.

To set the tone for Christmas we have picked some of the liveliest and most colorful decors and display. Do drop by and see for yourself how the spirit of Christmas will always prevail even in troubled times. There is much that the Filipinos can be proud of. Our creative minds and hands allow beauty to flow effortlessly in our artistic endeavors.

You see, in life what is permanent and lasting, are the love and joy that enveloped the world that first Christmas evening with the brightest star shining over a manger.



WHO needs reindeers when mice make lovely statements for a Christmas garden? These adorable rodents are made from lightweight materials composite stone.

KITKAT S. Zobel, Centex volunteer

RYAN Cayabyab teaches the children their lines for the musical "The Music of Dreams."

Nurturing Creativity in Children

(The Centex Experiment)

YEAR after year, many intellectually gifted children from under-resourced families are never truly given the chance for a better future.

Ayala Foundation, Inc. pioneered a program that is making it possible for such children to avail of a competitive education. Known as the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education or Centex, the program offers bright students from marginalized communities quality education comparable with the best private schools in the country.

"Creativity is a strategy of Centex in facilitating learning. We want to create a more challenging learning experience for the students," says Letty Sala curriculum consultant of Centex.

In Centex, creativity is essentially defined by two aspects:

Decision-making: Creativity is a form of problem-solving that involves finding as many options as possible before arriving at a decision. At Centex, students are allowed to make their own decisions on how to arrive at a solution to the problems given to them. They are taught to think out of the box.

Flexibility and fluency of thought: Creativity fosters mental growth in children by providing them the opportunity to try out new ideas and new ways of thinking. "We thus build flexibility and fluency of thought, what we call 'higher order thinking skills,' not just comprehension or memorizing," explains **Letty Sala.**

So how does creativity help raise future leaders? **Lilia Tantoco,** a Centex curriculum consultant and former principal of International School believes that children honed in the creative process will make better leaders. One reason is that they are able to see a lot of options before arriving at a solution to a problem.

Only time will tell if encouraging creativity will indeed spur these talented children to become future leaders. But already there are signs that show that this new approach is working.

"You see the creativity of these children in the way they explain things and verbalize thoughts. They have learned how to analyze and think for themselves, which is an important skill for a leader," says **Catherine "Kit" Zobel,** a Centex volunteer who is a UP graduate of Family Life and Child Development.

Those who just started schooling this year, for instance, are already fluent in English and can read and write. They can write lines like: "When I was a baby. I slept in a cradle. I loved drinking milk and eating oatmeal. I rode on my walker. Now that I am a grown-up boy, I go to school.. I study and play computer. I like to sing and dance." Remember that these are kids who are underprivileged and who stepped into school only this year.

"I believe that when you educate a person, allow that person access to knowledge, you empower him to make choices and decisions. I am convinced that some of them will be leaders one day and they will be leaders who are sensitive to the needs of all socio-economic classes. This education is a tool that will uplift their lives and they will eventually give back to this society," explains **Kit** when asked about her commitment to Centex.

A country can only be as progressive as its people. If the Centex experiment on creative learning proves effective, then our future is secure in the hands of these children, dedicated to country, to caring for others and to nurturing the environment.

SMILES wreath the children's faces at Centex

WORKING on creative solutions

THE FIRST batch of Centex students, now second graders, just recently topped the national exams.

Creative Costumes

HALLOWEEN is definitely an opportunity to showcase one's creativity—and this was evident in the costumes worn at the Pacific Plaza Tower's Halloween party in Bonifacio Global City last Oct. 29.

The celebration was well-attended by 80 children and grandchildren of residents, who paraded their costumes, played exciting games, and went trick or treating at select units in the North and South Towers.

pleasure +

The Pacific Plaza Towers

"Asia's Best"

"I walked into my new home at the Pacific Plaza Towers, and I felt this immense pleasure.
The satisfaction was so overwhelming I had to feel it again. That's when I knew I must have my second unit.

Adela La'O, Resident
The Pacific Plaza Towers

For more information call (632)8186391 or visit www.pacificplazatowers.com

The Genie In Your Lamp

RINA P. Ortiz

"WHAT is the way into the soul? Create your way in. Love your way in. Ask yourself, what does soul love? Music, beauty, color. Nature, the earth, design, innovation, holiness, reconciliation, truth telling, laughter, movement, feeling deeply, caring for others, caring for selfhood, feeling free...give these to the soul. They are the most powerful medicines."

Clarissa Pinkola Estes; Phd
Written for The Oprah Magazine

I walked into the red room of my very chic, bohemian friend and saw a lamp of such beauty and innovation. Half a *manton de manila* had been re-embroidered onto a rich, vibrant black silk fabric. The fringes of the *manton* had been used along the edge of the lampshade so that the slightest movement in the room would be echoed by the very gentle ripple of this silky trim. As it cast its muted light, it almost seemed to flirt and entice me to come forward. It was mysterious and elegant. Then and there, I resolved to meet the *"genie-us"* hands behind this lamp.

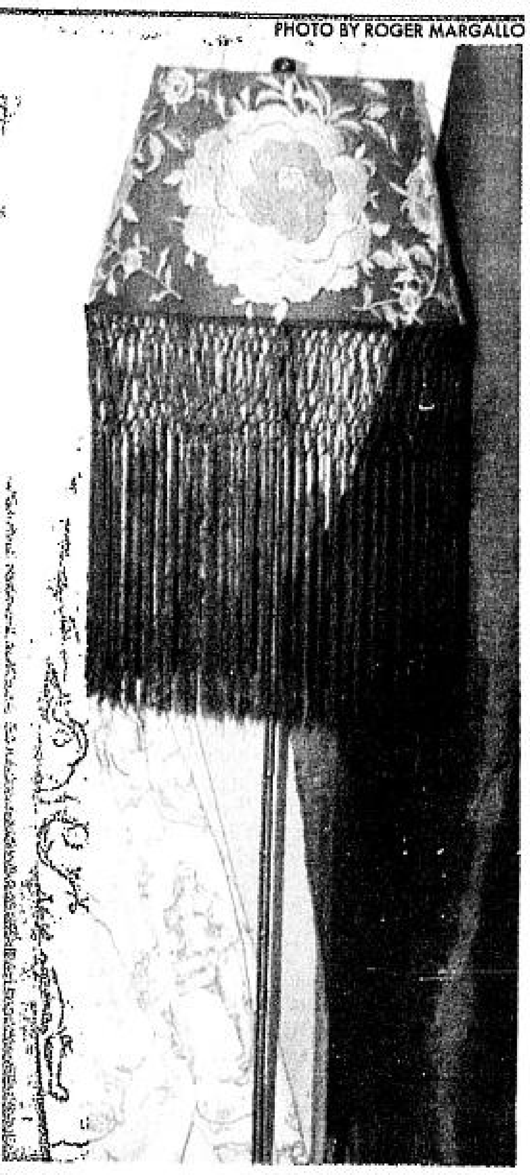
"That one is my favorite," exclaims **Rina P. Ortiz**, a porcelain beauty, who is wife to a banker and mother of two. Not only is she an innovative lamp creator, she is also an interior designer, a letter writer, a fledgling poet and a songwriter, who one day dreams of directing a movie.

"My best creations have happened when I have had the chance to know the person who is commissioning the lamp, a little better. In learning about others, I discover more about myself. This liberates me," confides **Rina**. "Isn't it wonderful to be able to create a lamp that reflects the personality of its owner? Each one is unique," says **Rina**. "I once created a lamp from denim material—with rhinestones as accents—for a friend whose personality is basically down-to-earth, fun, natural but always elegant."

Her innovative designs take time to create because the true artist in her will not be rushed. For with each lamp, **Rina Ortiz** is feeding her soul with the most powerful medicines.

Margarita L. Delgado

PHOTO BY ROGER MARGALLO


HALF a *manton* re-embroidered on rich, vibrant silk

Baubles And Beads

(Lyrics from the musical "Kismet")

BY DINA L. PATERNO

IN THE long ago world of voyage and discovery, mapmakers sketched dragons on maps as a sign to sailors that they would be entering unknown territory at their own risk. Some sailors took this sign literally and were afraid to take the adventure on, while others saw the opportunity. Each of us has a mental map of a world complete with dragons. For **Wynn Wynn Ong**, she slayed a dragon the summer she literally "beaded" her way to what is now known as "Nagá"

"Nagá" is a mythical dragon of Burma where **Wynn** is originally from. It is also her brand of baubles and beads. Beads and semi-precious stones of all sorts, shapes and sizes collected over the course of many travels, and baubles strung and woven from these very beads and stones to create bold, daring accessories.

Where does **Wynn** derive her inspiration? Someone once said that we "use our imagination not to scare ourselves to death but to inspire ourselves to life." Amid Vivaldi, candles and beads in a nurturing basement of Boston, when loss was the emotion of the day, **Wynn** did just that. Having a curious mind, being a lifelong learner and being very hands on, it was time to take out those precious finds of travels past and play—with colors, with forms, with textures. Some pieces took only a few hours while others took days. Working with stones, most of them possessed of qualities as they too come from the earth's core, brought a certain kind of healing to a mother grieving a child leaving home for the first time. Today, these same pieces bring a sense of liberation and exuberance not just to its creator but to a growing list of avid clients, some of whom have so gamely agreed to pose wearing "Nagá" creations for this article.

Each "Nagá" creation is one-of-a-kind and so named. The names are so apt if you can imagine "Butterscotch," "Sugar On Ice," "Morgana," "Danube" or "Limone". My personal favorite is "Nougat," a ring of citrine and pearls woven with copper wire, resembling exactly candy the way we remember it, chewy, nutty, yummy!

On the question, "Why be creative?," **Roger von Oech**, a creativity consultant in the US offers two reasons: first is change, which in turn gives one a choice. Second is that it is fun. For **Wynn Wynn Ong** of "Nagá" she certainly is having a lot of fun and has included many others in thoroughly enjoying the results of her creativity.

SAM Eduque

MICHAEL Sallentes

TESA Celdran

SEE how they gleam, so...

PHOTOS BY IÑIGO ELIZALDE

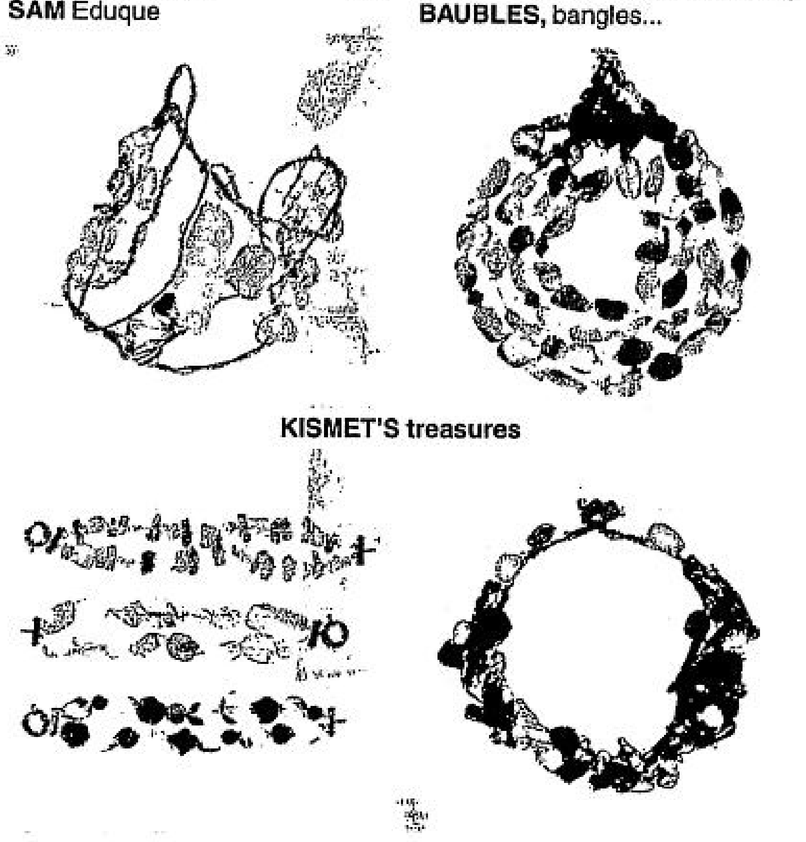
SUSAN Roxas

DENISE Celdran and Gaita Fores

SAM Eduque

BAUBLES, bangles...

BRIGHT, shining beads...


KISMET'S treasures

TESA Celdran and Sam Eduque

SEE how they ting, ting-a-ling...

SOMEDAY, he may buy me a ring...

MAKE somebody dream so...

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

Dancing With Lugnasin

CONCEPT BY SOPHIA Z. ELIZALDE
WRITTEN BY DINA L. PATERNO

WHAT do mechanical toys, scuba divers and shopping malls have in common? That would be a mind boggler unless you happen to have an imagination like **Alden Lugnasin**. Sometime last month, Ballet Philippines held a show called "Shoes++" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and featured, among others, **Alden's** choreography "Flippers," which was described as a first in Philippine contemporary dance. It was a first indeed as it featured ballet dancers, trained in the classical mode, dancing with flippers instead of toe shoes and wearing glow-in-the-dark swimming goggles. It was a delightful first for the audience who has never viewed anything quite like it here in Manila and possibly even anywhere else in the world.

What mind would conceive such combination as ballet, flippers and shopping carts all in one dance? To **Alden** who grew up by the sea in Samar and took up ballet only when he was in third year college in Tacloban, it would be the music that dictates the movement and pattern of a dance. That he always had a fascination with water also plays a great influence in his choreography. **Alden** is a dancer first, being one of Ballet Philippines' lead dancers, but chanced into choreography when he came face to face with an Ang Kiukok painting and found himself improvising to the picture before him. His mentors, **Agnes Locsin** and **Denisa Reyes** saw the potential in that improvisation and have since then nurtured that creativity within **Alden**. For "Flippers," which is short for "bungee corded underwater dancers at a mall with a shopping cart," **Alden** was given the music of **Hector Berlioz** by **Denisa**, and was promptly challenged. Not only did he start seeing movement, he saw concept as well—that of scuba divers seeing trash under the sea brought on by profligate consumerism as represented by shopping malls. A political statement no less, but set to dance it was difficult not to appreciate the message through such impressive and original form.

If there is one word to describe **Alden Lugnasin's** choreography, that would be 'daring.' **Sofia Z. Elizalde**, a former dancer with Ballet Philippines and one of **Alden's** supporters, says that **Alden** is "honest to his choreography" and her dream for him would be "to see what that kind of raw talent could do with a big budget." When asked what he would do if that day came, **Alden** is pensive and merely says, "I have to hear music."

We look forward to that day too with excitement. For those who missed "Shoes++" there is a possibility of a reshowing in early 2002. This one, you will not want to miss.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Creating Our Tomorrow by Learning from Yesterday's Legacy

(Modernizing the National Archives)

ANUNCIADA Colon's visit during the 100th anniversary of the National Archives of the Philippines.

IN JUNE 1999, through the signing of an agreement between the governments of the Philippines and Spain, the effort to modernize the National Archives was formalized. This collaboration ensures that the written memory of our nation is preserved and made accessible so that historians and students are able to study our progress as a society.

There are 200,000 bundles of documents which reflect and span the social, economic, scientific and political history of the country throughout the Spanish, Japanese, American and Philippine Republic periods.

These documents began to accumulate from the time of **Miguel Lopez de Legaspi** (who ruled the Spanish colony for the King of Spain in 1564) and were recklessly moved from one storage area to another—a nomadic journey that resulted in the destruction and loss of many records.

Providing the Archives building with a new infrastructure has been a major goal of this collaboration. A significant amount of time and effort have been invested in providing an ideal repository for our National Archives—modern installations and features which address the need for proper conservation, storage, security and restoration have been provided.

The institutions that have collaborated to carry out the objectives of the program are Agencia Española de Cooperacíon Internacional, the National Archives of the Philippines (RMAO), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Fundacíon Histórica Tavera, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC), Fundacíon Santiago and the Ministerio de Educacíon, Cultura y Deporte, through the Subdireccíon General de los Archivo Estatales.

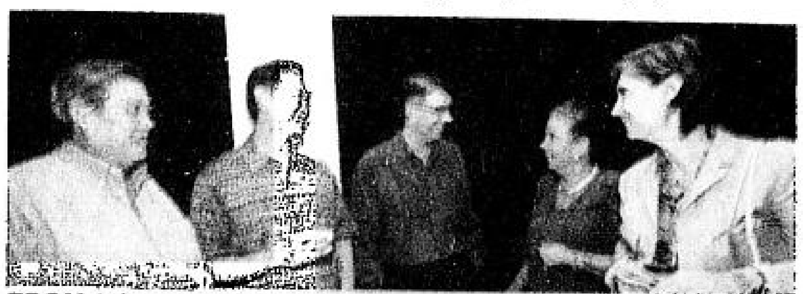
Pedro and **Gina Roxas** of Fundacíon Santiago, recently hosted a small, casual and elegant dinner in their home, for **Anunciada Colon de Carvajal**, director of the Fundacíon Histórica Tavera. As an historian, and a 12th direct descendant of **Cristobal Colón**, the second grandson of the famed explorer **Christopher Columbus, Anunciada** was keenly interested in viewing the archives personally.

"There are 22,000 bundles just for the Spanish period alone. So far, this is the most extensive I have seen in the world!" enthused Anunciada, She was particularly elated at having viewed the detailed maps in our National Archives and the wealth of information these provided.

The Fundacíon Santiago's vision to contribute to a strong grasp of the national identity by promoting and sustaining historical awareness among Filipinos, and using this sense of self as one of the foundations of national development is truly the vision for our country today.

FROM left are Gina Roxas, Pedro Roxas, Anunciada Colon de Carvajal

FROM left are Tolo Igual (Trustee, Fundacion Santiago), Javier Herrera (Consul General, Spanish Embassy) and Tito Picornell (Trustee, Fundacion Santiago)

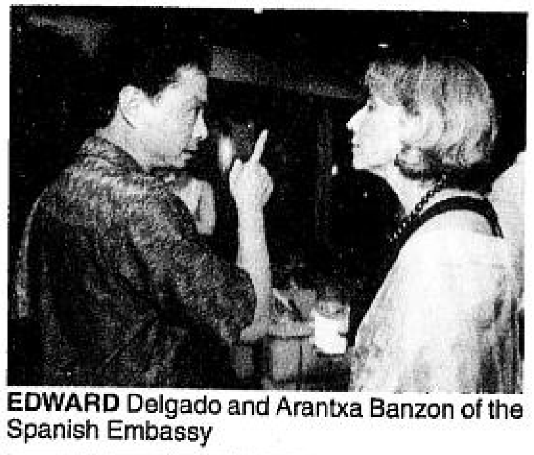


FROM left are Ambassador Johnny Rocha (Trustee, Fundacion Santiago), Michael Escaler, John Cogul, Pilina Rocha and Carmen Cogul

ANDY Soriano and Spanish Ambassador Tomas Rodriguez Pantoja

BUBOY Virata and Kim Camacho

LIBET Virata and Papat Escaler



EDWARD Delgado and Arantxa Banzon of the Spanish Embassy

MARIT Yuchengco, Fred Uytengsu and Secretary of Finance Lito Camacho

VICKY Soriano and Kerry Uytengsu

At the Ladies Wear Department
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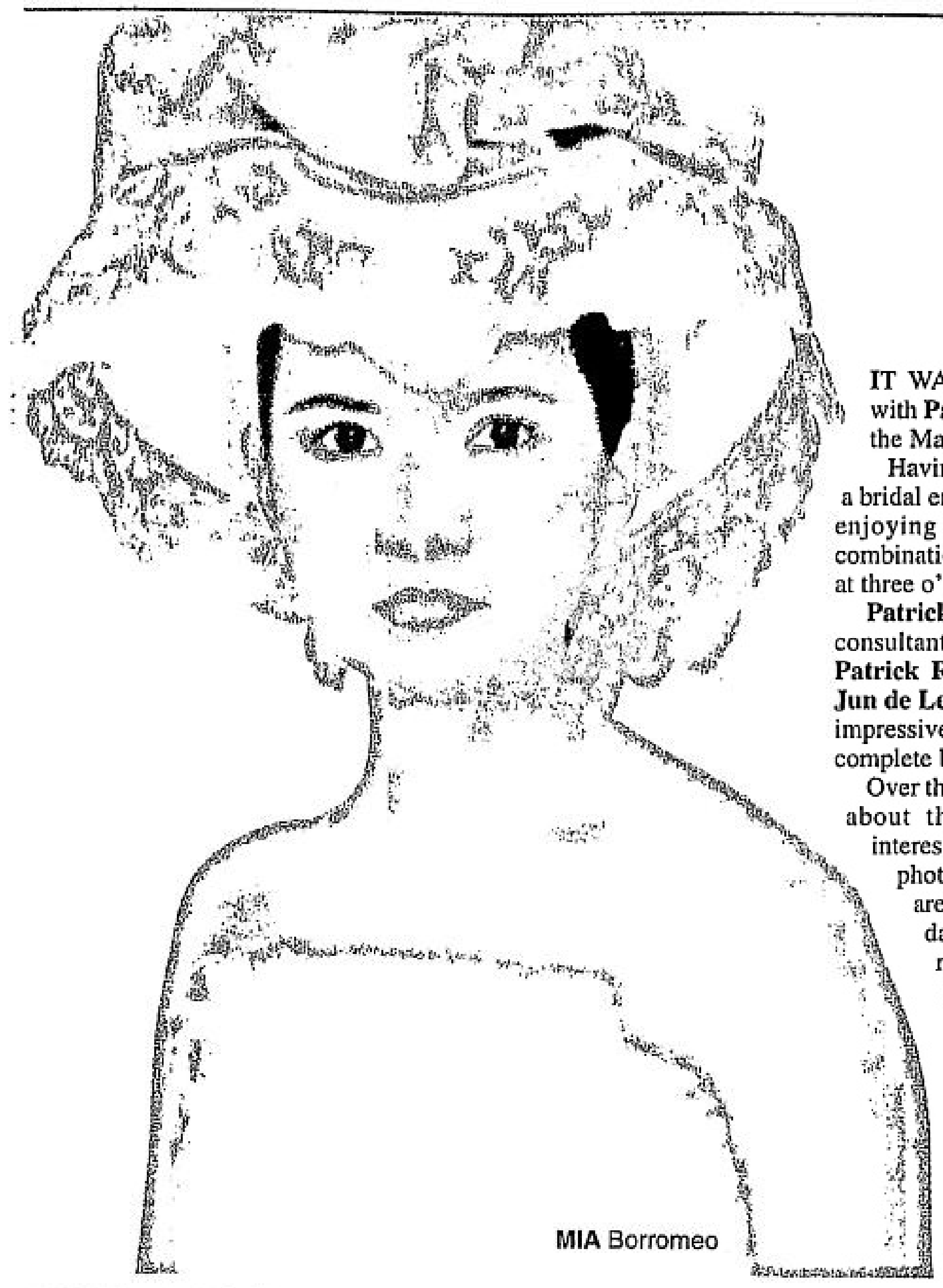
Beauty Diplomacy


MIA Borromeo

IT WAS an interesting chat that Élan had with **Patrick Rosas** one Sunday afternoon at the Manila Peninsula lobby.

Having just finished doing the make-up for a bridal entourage the night before, Patrick was enjoying a well-earned *"breaklunmer,"* a combination of breakfast, lunch and merienda at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Patrick, is the make-up artist and beauty consultant who recently launched the book, **Patrick Rosas Images**, in collaboration with **Jun de Leon**, the renowned photographer. This impressive coffee table book took 18 months to complete but it was certainly worth the wait.

Over the past few weeks, much has been said about the beautiful, stylish women and interesting men, who appear in **Images**. The photographs are stark and dramatic. Some are infused with humor. Other poses are daring and risqué. And yet others are so refreshingly traditional. Élan was intrigued about **Patrick's** reason for putting together this book. After all, it takes a courageous soul to work with so many different personalities in one project.

Patrick started in theatre make-up with the Cultural Center of the Philippines and moved on to New York City, where he honed his creative skills and developed into the professional that he is today.

"Most women have a vision of themselves. They peg themselves into this box and stay there for a long time. I see them differently. My creative skill gives them the confidence to be photographed with drama and fantasy," mused **Patrick** over a refreshing *halo-halo*. Indeed, when one turns the pages of **Images**, it is difficult to move on to the next because one lingers at the impact of the colors, the pose, the drama and the fantasy. So much character in each page. "Look at how the inner beauty of the individuals come out. See how they are all different and yet collectively, they create such impact. This is what I want the world to see," says **Patrick** with conviction.

"The Philippines has hit the front pages recently. Most stories are in the negative context, the kidnappings, the Love Bug virus, etc. In my own humble way, I believe that I can show the world that there is another aspect to Philippine news. We have a beautiful and exotic side to the Filipino. Our gorgeous women are at par with the world's beauties. Why not highlight what is good in our country?" says **Patrick**.

This simple man, from humble beginnings, stands up to leave to continue his crusade—the Philippine beauty diplomacy.

SUSAN Reyes

Edgy...Fun...Itsie-Bitsie

INES Delgado

WALKING into *"Itsie–Bitsie"* gave one the feel of a little bit of Soho in the heart of 1755 M. Adriatico, Malate! Minimalist white, easy on the eyes, refined interiors beckon the individual to come in and experience the young, edgy and sophisticated clothes and accessories displayed on its racks and shelves.

The boutique sells one-of-a-kind swimwear and fashionable dresses, shirts, and pants from hip Australian labels such as Zimmerman, Tigerlily, Sass and Bide, Lisa Ho, Rebecca Davis, Kitten and others.

"It's my dream come true!" says an ecstatic **Ines Toda Delgado** after spending sleepless nights preparing for the boutique's recent opening. An Art History graduate of Colorado College, and presently the Program Assistant for Asia Society Philippine Foundation, **Ines** considers *"Itsie-Bitsie"* her creative outlet.

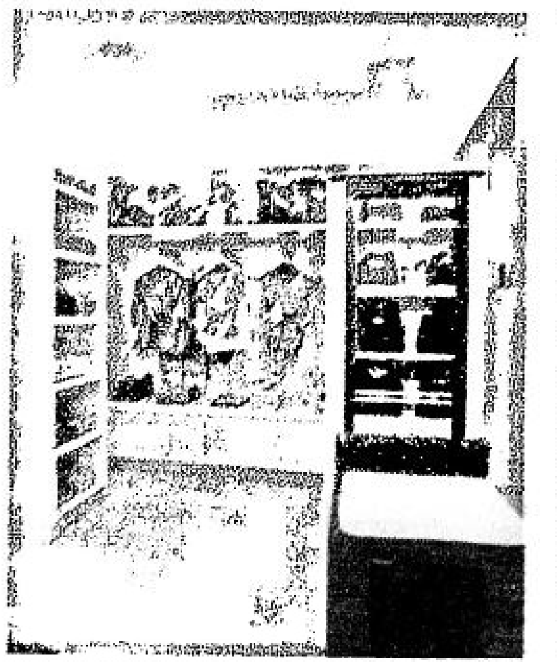
"I wanted to create a small boutique that people could come to, where they would find clothes and accessories that were different from the usual, run-of-the-mill fashion. Australia has a new breed of cutting-edge designers who are not yet known in Manila. These designers are creating a storm in London and New York! In fact, Sass and Bide is a favourite of **Sarah Jessica Parker**," says **Ines**.

And from what we saw that night, *"Itsie-Bitsie"* is set to create its own mini storm among the trendsetters of Manila.

GINA Mok, Ros Ros Delgado, Yorgos Psinakis, Geny Psinakis and Cristina Villanueva

MIA Borromeo and Lizzie Zobel

NENA Ortoll, Ros Ros Delgado and Sandra Vidarte


ITSIE-BITSIE boutique decorated by Far East Design

SPECIAL guests who helped open Itsie-Bitsie were Lizzie Zobel, Kathy de Guzman, Ines Delgado, Mia Borromeo, Monique Toda and Mark Visser of the Australia Trade Commission

MR. and Mrs. Mark Visser, Australia Trade Commission together with Ines Delgado

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The Creation of Miracles in Shanghai

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY GRACE A. TAN

> *"TIME is an invention. Now is a reality. So much creativity is happening for the simple reason that we have withdrawn ourselves from past and future. Our whole energy remains blocked either in the past or in the future. When you withdraw all your energy from past and future, a tremendous explosion happens. That explosion is creativity."*

I cannot remember who said this but I am forever grateful for his wisdom.

Shanghainese pride themselves as the most capable and sophisticated people in the country. They set their sights far but do not forget to focus on the present. When one looks at the city where the APEC was recently held, one is awed by the accelerated development of this cosmopolitan city. The futuristic skyscrapers, the Pudong economic zone, the museums, the theater, the expressways and other infrastructure that link West and East Shanghai—all these are nothing short of a miracle.

CREATIVITY is alive in Shanghai

Shanghai is creativity in action. Its people "do" rather than talk. They refuse to get stuck in the past. Neither do they become transfixed in mindless dreams of what their future could be. They seize the opportunity and take advantage of their creativity and bountifulness so that they can build a prosperous reality today.

It was interesting for me to meet some of our overseas workers in this city because there was a lesson for us all. To overcome seemingly insurmountable circumstances, these heroic individuals have seized the moment and created their own promising reality. Thru sheer hard work, they have created their own miracles today because they know where they have come from, and do not fear what is in store for them tomorrow. From processing their working documents, to enduring the pain of leaving loved ones, to surviving in a new environment, our overseas workers have grasped the moment.

Like the Shanghainese, they have realized that *creativity is living the now.*

THE DRAMATIC Shanghai skyline

Bringing Health and Wellness Home

AFTER more than a century of helping women become more beautiful on the outside, **Avon** turns its focus toward inner beauty with the introduction of **Avon Wellness**, a new global collection of health and wellness products for women and their families.

Wellness is the balanced state of being happy, healthy and satisfied. It is increased energy, vitality and better rest. It is nutrition for the body—and for the spirit. It brings health and beauty in harmony. **Avon Wellness** completes the circle of inner and outer beauty.

Avon Wellness products have been carefully chosen to provide the nutritional, fitness and relaxation essentials needed for a woman to live a healthier lifestyle. **Avon Wellness** also meets the needs of today's time-constrained woman by providing her with convenient one-stop shopping and personalized service affordable quality products that can be used in the comfort of her own home, on her own time, including vitamins and nutritional supplements, exercise and fitness and stress management products.

Avon Wellness is not just a collection of health and wellness products, it is an entirely new lifestyle.

Dermclinic Launches Oxygen Therapy In The Philippines

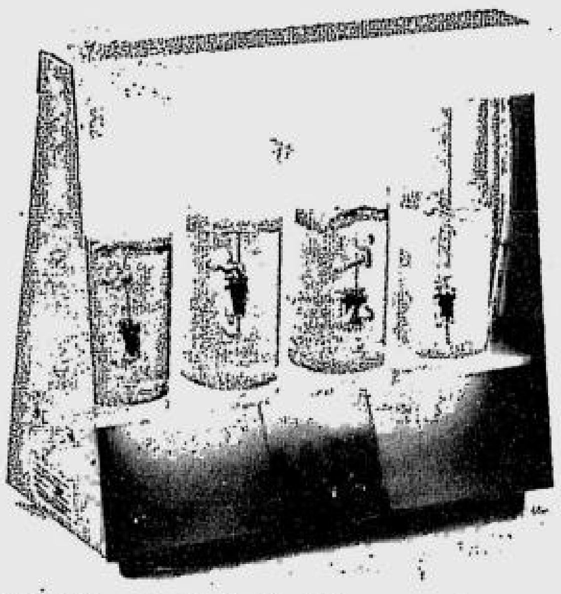
DERMCLINIC launches another new idea in the field of Dermatology. Oxygen Therapy, one of the latest alternatives for health buffs is now available in the Philippines.

Starting out as the main staple for popular Oxygen Bars in Reno, Nevada and Southern California, Oxygen Therapy has become a hit not only in the United States, but in Europe and other Asian countries as well. The overwhelming positive testimonials on the treatment prove that the therapy can de-stress and revitalize instantly. Peopl also swear that it aids migraines and helps them lose weight.

At Dermclinic, Oxygen Therapy exhilarates, calms and de-stresses the individual while getting the benefits of a dermatological-tested medical or basic facial. As in any new treatment, Dermclinic has thoroughly trained its consultants and medical staff in the correct and accurate procedures of performing the treatment, such as the medically recommended flow regulation at 2 to 2.5; and using only top-quality oxygen-safe, non-oil based aromas. All 20 Dermclinic branches are equipped with the latest technology in Oxygen Therapy.

The different aromas remove stress while providing a naturally revitalized feeling. The Dermclinic Oxygen Therapy offers an Aroma Menu. Each aroma or "flavor" provides various benefits:

- Nirvana – Lavender, Balsam and Fir Needles – soothing and relieving stress and tension
- Clarity – Eucalyptus and Gingko – purifying, invigorating, clarifying
- Sublime – Limejuice concentrate – equalizing, refreshing and cheering
- Synergy – Wintergreen, Spearmint, Peppermint – cheering, calming and relaxing
- Revitalize – Lemon, Rosemary, Peppermint, Sweet Basil – uplifting, strengthening, warming
- Eclipse – Peppermint – sensual, euphoric, exotic
- Lemon Grass – Lemon grass extract – vitalizing, cleansing
- Dermclinic is bringing in this new technology to complement its medical facial. Testimonials from around the world regarding the instant perk-me-up effect of oxygen therapy is escalating and Dermclinic regulars can now experience the purifying and invigorating effects under the professional supervision of the Dermclinic staff.



Breathing In Your Source of Health:

the OXYGEN story only at Dermclinic

Oxygen bars and clinics are fast becoming a hit all over the world. Springing up all over in New York and Los Angeles, the first oxygen bar was opened in Reno, Nevada in 1997. This was brought to the attention of even more curious New Age aficionados with the high-profile launch of Hollywood actor Woody Harrelson's 02 in Southern California along the famous Sunset Strip where they serve organic food and strictly no-alcohol drinks. Definitely a haven for New Age health buffs in the area. It is also fast becoming a by-word in Asia with oxygen bars sprouting in India and Hong Kong.

Basically, the principle behind the oxygen bars rests on the function of oxygen itself.

A vital ingredient to health, vitality, physical stamina and endurance, maintaining proper oxygen levels in the body is a must. It is the fuel required for the proper operation of all body systems.

Oxygen is our primary source of energy, as it supplies 90% while food and water only supplies 10% of energy we need to expend to live.

Oxygen provides our body the ability to rebuild itself, detoxify the blood and strengthen the immune system. Oxygen displaces deadly free radicals, neutralizes environmental toxins and destroys anaerobic infectious bacteria, parasites, microbes and viruses. Oxygen also enhances the body's absorption of important nutrients such as vitamins, minerals, amino acids and proteins.

Memory and other brain functions are also affected with our oxygen supply. All our brain functions need oxygen. Furthermore, it also calms the mind, stabilizes the nervous system and heightens concentration and alertness. Without oxygen, brain cells die quickly and this effects memory loss since brain cells do not regenerate.

Oxygen also has a lot of benefits for the heart. Lowering the resting heart rate and strengthening the contraction of the cardiac muscle. Virtually all heart attacks come down to the failure to deliver oxygen to the hardworking heart muscle.

With all these benefits of oxygen to our health, some may question, is there not enough oxygen in the air to suffice for the body's needs? Why are we not getting enough oxygen?

- **Atmospheric Oxygen is Declining– This is caused by toxic gases and pollutants in the modern world. A few hundred years ago, the oxygen content of our atmosphere was 35%. Today it has been reduced to 21%!**
- **The Fast-Food Lifestyle Depletes Oxygen from our Bodies– If our diet consists mainly of fastfood fare, then we are depriving our bodies of needed oxygen because these oftentimes, overprocessed junk food are low in oxygen and high in toxins. Our body even needs more oxygen to get rid of toxins. Common examples of low-in-oxygen food are processed sugar, white flour, alcohol, coffee and colas.**
- **Increased Daily Stress, Lack of Exercise and Rest Depletes Oxygen Levels.– Physical stress due to illness and infections consume more oxygen as the body fights the invading bacteria. Emotional stress puts strain on major organs such as the brain and the heart. Lack of exercise prevents organs, muscles and cell tissue from absorbing more oxygen needed to revitalize. Without ample rest, all body systems must continue to work hard.**
- **Aging Decreases Oxygen Levels.– According to research, aging accounts for a decrease in oxygen consumption ranging from 5% to 19% per decade between the age of 25 to 75. The respiratory tract deteriorates – as a result, lung function decreases.**

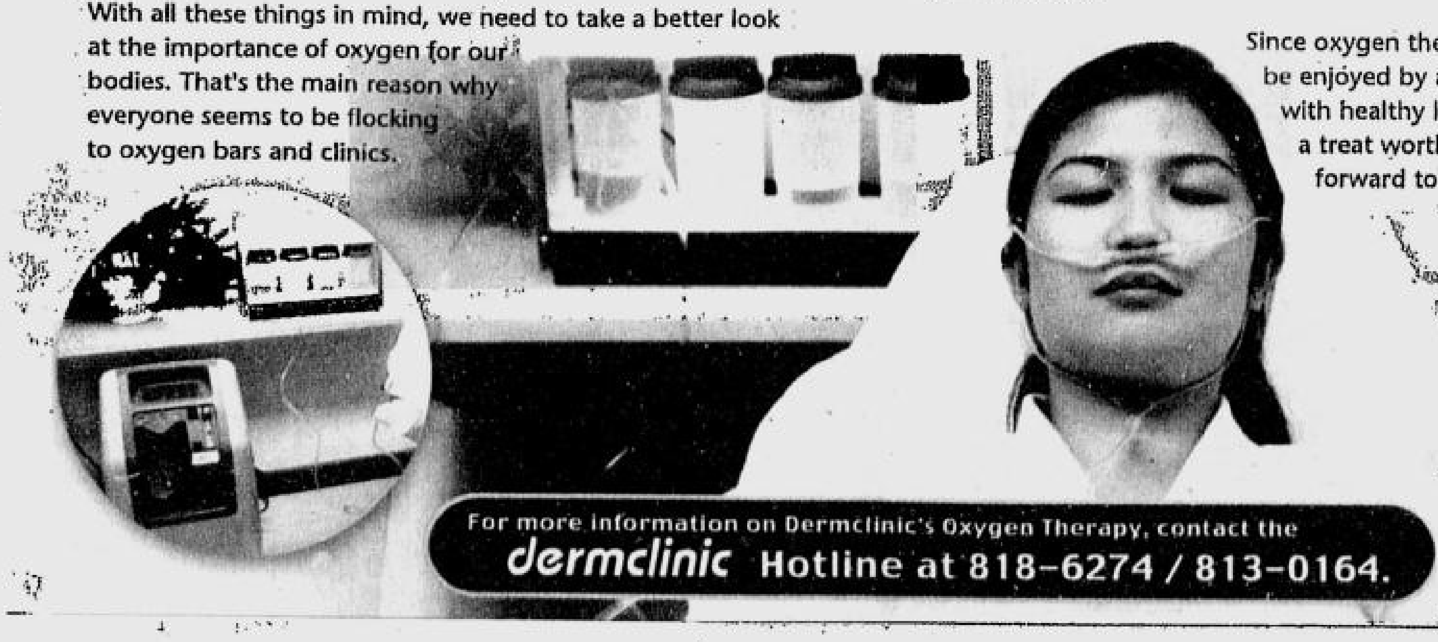
With all these things in mind, we need to take a better look at the importance of oxygen for our bodies. That's the main reason why everyone seems to be flocking to oxygen bars and clinics.

Even the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approves of the oxygen therapy for migraines and headaches, among other medical problems.

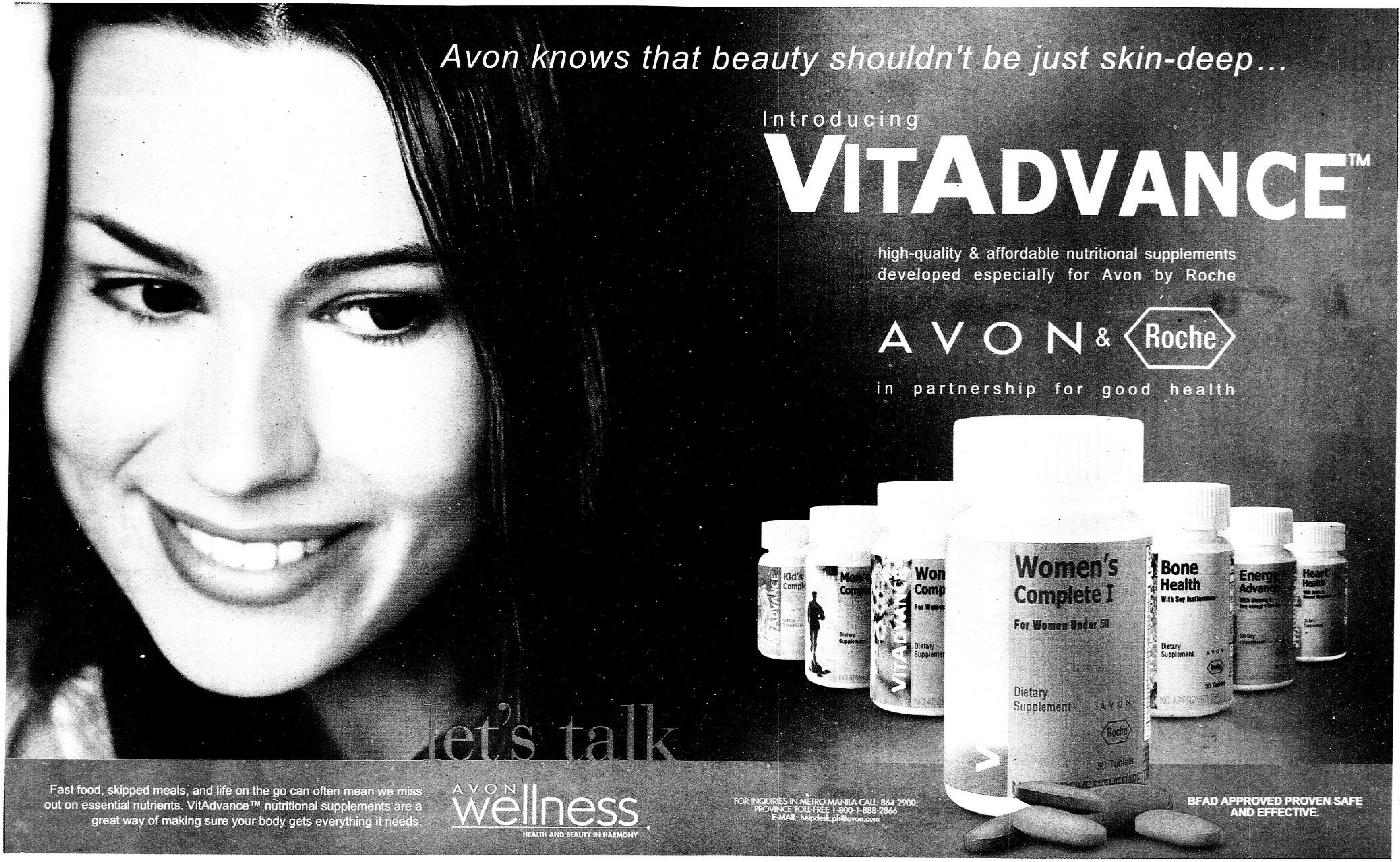
Dermclinic is bringing in this new technology to complement its medical facial. Testimonials from around the world regarding the instant perk-me-up effect of oxygen therapy is escalating and Dermclinic regulars can now experience the purifying and invigorating effects of oxygen therapy, under the professional supervision of Dermclinic staff.

Dermclinic is offering several FDA-approved "flavored" oxygen therapies. "**NIRVANA**" (Lavender, Balsam, Fir Needle) - soothing and relieving, "**CLARITY**" (Eucalyptus and Gingko) - purifying, invigorating and clarifying, "**SUBLIME**" (Lime Juice concentrate) - equalizing, refreshing and cheering, "**SYNERGY**" (Wintergreen, Spearmint, and Peppermint) - cheering, calming and relaxing, "**LEMON GRASS**" (Lemon Grass) - vitalizing and cleansing, "**REVITALIZE**" (Lemon, Rosemary, Peppermint and Sweet Basil) - uplifting strengthening and warming, "**ECLIPSE**" (Peppermint) - sensual, euphoric and exotic, "**TANGERINE DREAM**" (Citrus, Reticulate) - cheering, calming and relaxing.

Since oxygen therapy can be enjoyed by anyone with healthy lungs, it is a treat worth looking forward to.



For more information on Dermclinic's Oxygen Therapy, contact the
dermclinic Hotline at 818-6274 / 813-0164.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let's talk

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Why Joyce Jimenez is still number one

By Edmund L. Sicam

IT was probably unfair of us to ask Joyce Jimenez why she's still on top after so many years and expect a fortright answer. Regal's Joey Gosiengfiao had invited a few writers to Mother Lily's Century Imperial Palace on Timog ave. to chat with the sexy star at poolside to promote her latest film "Ano Bang Meron Ka," which opens on Nov.14.

Her response to our question was the standard show biz reply: "I don't feel like I'm on top. I've always been grateful for what I get. I don't complain about the things that I don't have."

Right choices

Later in the interview, she came up with a better answer: "I speak my mind but not to the point of being *bastos*. I speak from the heart. I've also made the right choices with the help of my manager (Shirley Kuan). I've kept my feet on the ground. I still remember that I'm somebody's daughter, somebody's little sister.

JOYCE/ P. D2

JOYCE doesn't try to be sexy. She just is.

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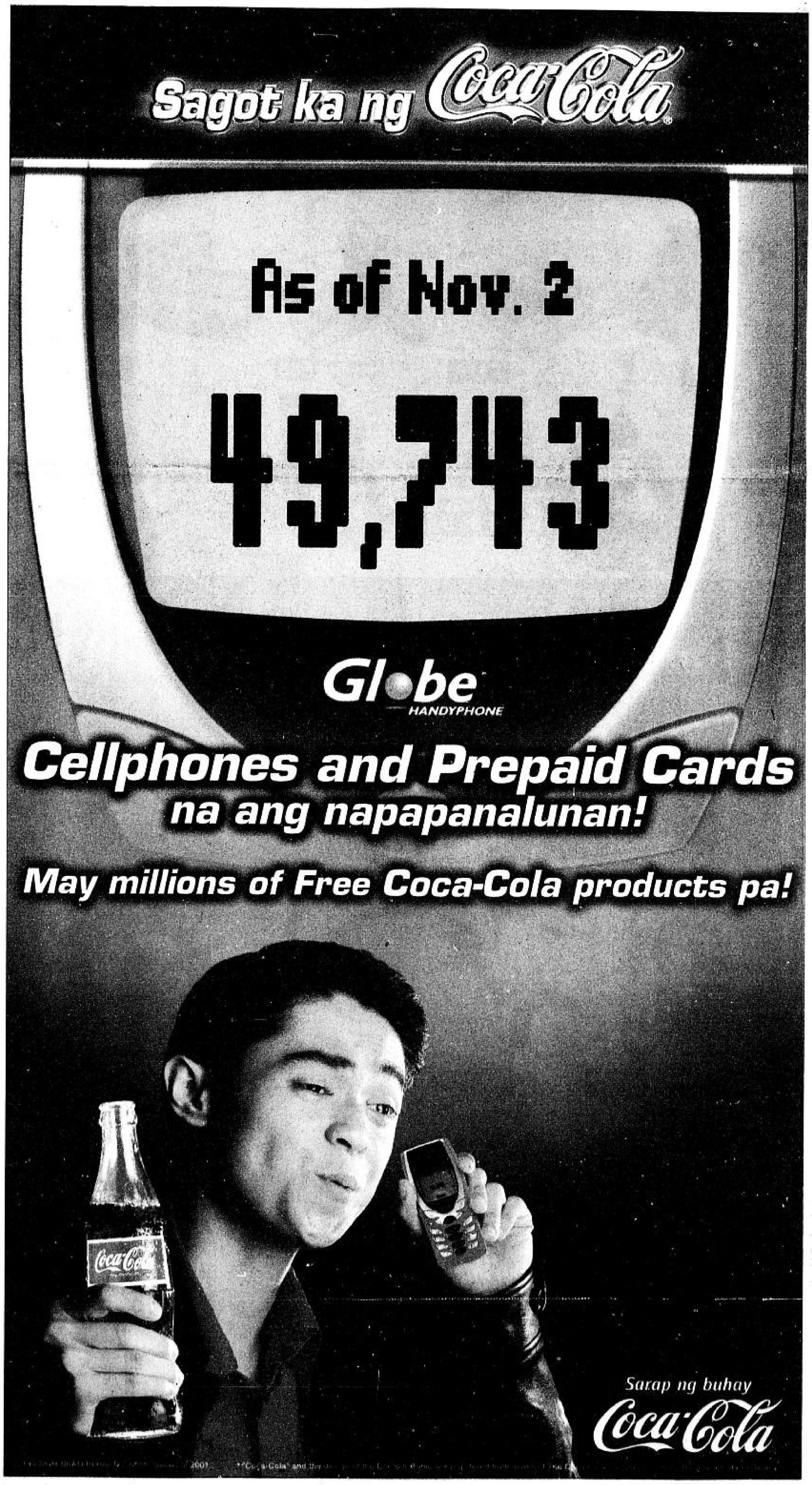
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Musical films are back in vogue

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER "Moulin Rouge" hit the spot with viewers, musical films are back in vogue, and two of them are about to play in town.

First on view is "Glitter," topbilling Mariah Carey in her first big film role. The story starts in the early '70s, in a Harlem jazz club.

A gifted but troubled singer is having a hard time finishing a number, so she calls her little daughter up onstage to finish it for her.

The little girl grows up into Carey's character, Billie, after a long stay in an orphanage. Billie and some friends try to break into the Manhattan disco scene, and a producer (Terrence Howard) hires them to do back-up vocals for a mediocre talent.

A disco DJ buys out Billie's contract after hearing her fabulous singing voice. They become a romantic item, but their affair is tempestuous.

Other substantial roles are played by Broadway musical-theater star Valerie Pettiford (as Billie's mother) and Dorian Harewood (as a powerful record producer).

The second musical film, "Rock Star" casts Mark Wahlberg in the title role. His character, Chris Cole, is a huge fan of rocker Bobby Beers, whose electrifying singing style he's able to copy with incredible precision.

For a long time, Cole's singing career doesn't get anywhere—until he's tapped to replace Beers. Instantly, Cole becomes a big rock star, and is blinded by success, leaving his longtime girlfriend (Jennifer Aniston) in the lurch.

To make the film look and sound authentic, the members of Cole's band are played by real rock stars like Verke Pipe guitarist Brian Vander Ark, Dokken bassist Jeff Pilson, and Led Zeppelin drummer Jason Bonham.

To sound right for his role, Wahlberg took singing lessons for six months.

Music and movement classes for children

Ryan Cayabyab, The Music Studio announces the start of its Music and Movement classes for children 3-7 years old. Music and Movement aims to develop a child's musical capabilities and understanding through the active use of the body and the senses.

The classes include activities in ear training, rhythmic movement, singing and dramatizations. It is ideal that a child is able to use the body and voice as instruments before or while being taught how to play an instrument.

Classes begin today. Call Melissa or Gladys at 844-3330 or 843-2874.

Campus tour

MTV Philippines and Pepsi recently hit five Manila schools with their Pepsi Live Campus Tour. Students at Ateneo de Manila University, UP Diliman, Assumption College, St. Benedict's College and Polytechnic University of the Philippines grooved to performances by top bands like Parokya ni Edgar, True Faith, Barbie's Cradle, Rivermaya and Passage.

MTV Philippines is on Channel 41 on free TV on Channel 32 on Sky Cable, and Channel 41 on Home Cable.

MMFF deadline extended

The deadline for the submission of final film entries to this year's Metro Manila Film festival has been extended to Nov. 14. The festival will run from Dec. 25 to Jan. 3, 2002. Only seven films will be chosen as official filmfest entries.

The filmfest's Parade of Stars will be held on Dec. 24, and the awards night is on Dec. 22 (at the Reception Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center).

WAHLBERG is the "Rock Star."

DION (left). First big film role.

'Revolutionary Hearts'

At 9 p.m. tonight, the New Voice Company is staging its new, innovative and relevant show, "Revolutionary Hearts" at Republic of Malate. Monique Wilson has conceptualized the presentation as a "fusion of theater and concert, with poetry, social commentary, monologues, testimonies, songs, movement and visual interplay."

Its objective is "to explore issues affecting Filipinos today—migration, poverty, globalization, and commodization of women and children, and to take passionate stands on issues like national idenity, individuality, freedom, justice, integrity and truth."

"Revolutionary Hearts" is slated to go on college and provincial tours after its Republic of Malate stint. It features gifted performers like Mayee Aberilla, Elnand Arellano, Rito Asilo, April Celmar, Christopher Cruz, Lara de Jesus, Christine Escudero, Jenny Zamora, Oliver Rodriguez, Gina Samson, Rona Lou San Pedro, China Tapia, Nikki Ventosa and Jasmin Zueger and is directed by Andrew Vergara.

JIMENEZ. "My career is not my life."

Joyce . . . (From page D1)

I feel I'm a real person. I try to be myself at all times."

Our own analysis of her success is that she doesn't try to be sexy in her movies. She just is. She doesn't even have to undress to get the testosterone level rising in the theater. A big close-up of her face is sufficient.

So despite all the pretenders to her throne, Joyce is still numero uno. She herself doesn't feel competitive. She feels that not every role is right for her so there's room for everyone. Besides she wants the audience to have a choice.

"If I were the only one around, *mag-sasawa ang mga tao*. The audience likes variety. So I don't think of the rest as competition. It's not like a race where you'll get a medal if you win. It's just a job," she sighs. "My career is not my life. It's just work."

It's a lot of hard work when it comes to doing love scenes, especially when you and your leading man had just met two weeks ago but you're expected to be passionately in love with him on the screen.

"So I try to convince myself that I'm in love with this guy. Usually, *walang* dialogue *ang* lovemaking. So you speak with your movements, with the look in your eyes. The way you caress his face is important. If your fingers are stiff, *mahahalata na di totoo*," explains Joyce

Technical aspects

Then there are the technical aspects of the love scene that often detract from the intimate scene that is being shot. While she and her partner are doing a torrid love scene, she has to pay attention to her director shouting what she has to do with her body, what facial expression to show, what to do with her hands.

In her latest movie, she and Diether had to do a love scene supposedly in a storm so there were sprinklers for the rain effect and a big industrial blower for the wind. It was cold and they were shivering during the entire take. Then to feel warm, they had to apply oil on their bodies so when they were kissing each other, they tasted oil in their mouths.

This is the part that many moviegoers may find hard to understand: that the Joyce Jimenez they see on the big screen is just acting. She makes it look so real that people expect the offscreen Joyce to be like the characters she portrays—sexually promiscuous, kinky and amoral.

Not so from the answers she gave us during the interview. For instance, she finds phone sex "weird." She doesn't believe in one-night stands. When asked whether she'd rather have sex without love or love without sex, she opted for the latter, saying "I can live without sex. It's just two bodies joining together.

"Sex is just for physical pleasure. I would rather go swimming. I would rather have love in my life, someone who will take care of me and love me." She clarifies that she's not downgrading sex. Shejust wanted to emphasize that love and sex should go together.

If Joyce sounds conservative, that's how she was brought up in the US where she grew up in a Catholic household. She said she was a late bloomer, dating only when she was already 17 years old. And even then, the Pinoys she went out did not expect to score on their first date. They were born in the US but had traditional Filipino values. Joyce never went out with Americans.

Conservative background

With her conservative background, how did she make the decision to go bold in her first major movie, "Scorpio Nights 2"? "People think when I was asked to do a bold movie, *kinagat ko kaagad*. It took me two years before I made that decision. The first time it was offered to me, which was three months after I got here, I said, '*Di ko kaya*.' Then I matured. I knew that if I accepted it, I had to be strong enough. When I finally agreed to do it, it was a starring role.

She also liked the way Viva handled her. "They let me talk to Peque (Gallaga) and *direk* Erik (Matti). They showed me storyboards and explained the storyline in detail. They explained it to me like I was three years old. My leading man, Albert Martinez, and I had the same manager so I was comfortable with him," she recalls.

Joyce did not impose any conditions as to how far she was willing to go. She just made sure the shots were not "*malaswa*" something she was not worried about because she trusted her director.

The rest, as they say, is history. The tagline "Pantasya ng Bayan" stuck to her. It's a tag she doesn't regret getting even now when she's trying to do other types of roles. That's what made her famous and she'll never forget it.

Now she's confident that her audience is ready to see her in other roles. "I don't feel people watch my movies just to see me go bold. Maybe in the first two or three movies, but now it's different."

She's proven that with "Narinig Mo Na Ba ang Latest" with Aga Muhlach, one of the few movies that did not capitalize on her nude scenes.

In her latest movie, "Ano Bang Meron Ka"? directed by Maryo delos Reyes, who is responsible for the controversial "Red Diaries," there are a few nude scenes but they are tame enough so direk Maryo is hoping the MTRCB will give the movie a PG-13 rating.

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ALBUM REVIEW

Songs about life, love, joy and pain

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA

Brian McKnight
Superhero
MCA Universal

THIS deftly crafted 15-song set percolates with R&B, rock, hip-hop and pop tunes. Tightly-woven melodies blend smoothly with Brian's cool voice, making this album a steal.

Funky beat

"My Kind of Girl" possesses an earthy confidence set amidst the funky beat. Though the tune is upbeat, Brian's sensitivity still manages to surface with lyrics like, "You're the kind of girl I dream about. My heart is telling me, I need you in my world 'coz you're my kinda lady. You're my kinda girl."

"When You Wanna Come," "What's It Gonna Be," and "Whatever You Want" is part funk and part R&B, it sounds almost like rock music. These are good tunes but listening to Brian's voice only makes our yearning for his soft and introspective side in his ballads more intense.

Poignant ditties

"Love of my Life" and "Everything" are slow, poignant ditties that reflect his sensitive emotions, both stylistically and lyrically.

"The Biggest Part of Me" is similar to his old hit, "Back At One." It's pristine and fragile, brimming with such uncontained emotion that you can almost feel his bittersweet longing.

It speaks about being changed by love. It's as mushy as our local ballads, minus the remorse, resentment and the *pa-awa* effect.

The strengths of the album lie in its melodies, lyrics and Brian's voice. Each song celebrates an aspect of life, love and pain and encourages the listener to appreciate each moment before moving on.

"THE BEST OF THE CORRS." Worth revisiting.

Brian McKnight
superhero

"SUPERHERO." This 15-song set is a steal.

The Corrs
The Best of the Corrs
Warner Music

They're good. With Andrea on lead vocals and tin whistle, Jim on guitars, Sharon on violins, and Caroline on drums, percussion, bodhran and piano, they complement each other perfectly.

Each sibling knows when to shine or fade into the background. They don't try to outshine each other but seem to revel in harmony, openness and trust. And each track demonstrates that attitude.

"Make You Mine" is smooth and unintrusive, and carries you to another world. You can forget where you are and what you're doing as you try to absorb the meaning of the song.

"Would You Be Happier" has a good melody and easy recall. But it's not as compelling as "Love to Love You" and "Everybody Hurts."

Good things in life

"All the Love in the World" can be a good anthem for single girls. It's about having most of the good things in life (money, a stable career, great friends, supportive family) but there's something still missing: someone to share all the good things with.

"So Young" is done in K-Klass remix so it seems like you're listening to the song for the first time. The approach is innovative and original so you end up playing it over and over again.

"Runaway" portrays women as strong yet vulnerable creatures. It has a resigned and quiet tinge that makes it more poignant and stirring.

"Breathless," "I Never Loved You Anyway," "Irresistible," "Forgiven Not Forgotten," "Only When I Sleep," and "Give Me a Reason" are old reliables. The kind of songs you want to hear on sleepless nights when you need to replay unsettling or happy moments.

"What Can I Do" is done in Tin Tin Out remix. It still invites you to wallow in self-pity, but they do it beautifully. Listening to this song makes you wonder if they want listeners to be painfully in love without expecting anything in return.

The Corrs turn every song into a story that it worth revisiting every now and then.

Patricia Javier, Silk perform in separate entertainment venues

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

PATRICIA Javier explores another facet of her talents when she sings before an intimate audience at Dish, 3rd level of the Power Plant Mall in Makati on Nov. 15 at 9 p.m. The sexy star, who is currently shooting "Tatarin" for Viva, will do several Jennifer Lopez numbers and hits from the '70s. She will be accompanied by the Mulatto band.

Patricia was all covered up when she faced some entertainment writers recently but she still radiated the same sexiness that caught the audience's attention in "Ang Kabit Ni Mrs. Montero."

She intrigued us when she said that in the period movie "Tatarin" based on Nick Joaquin's piece, she's also covered up but the director, Tikoy Aguiluz, managed to do a love scene in which both actors were fully-clothed.

Not so in "Mrs. Montero" where she did some torrid scenes with Gardo Verzosa and in "Gusto Ko Ng Lumigaya" where she played a supporting role to Pops Fernandez but got noticed nevertheless in her violent love scene with Albert Martinez. She played a battered wife to Raymund Bagatsing in "Marital Rape" which went through a difficult time at the MTRCB although her scenes were quite tame compared to "Mrs. Montero."

It was, however, her continuing role in the soap "Kirara" that gave her more exposure. Thus when she would do concerts in the provinces, people referred to her as Kirara. Before that, she was just known as "*yung* bold star."

Smaller roles

Patricia doesn't mind the tag because it's gotten her several assignments. Even now, the film offers haven't stopped coming although the roles are not as big as the title role in "Mrs. Montero." She's happy she's getting offers, even if they are supporting roles.

In fact, she wants to concentrate on being a character actress because talents in that category seem to have a longer career than lead actors. She's unhappy that "Kirara" is already off the air despite its high ratings. She's concerned about the production staff. "Christmas pa *naman*," she sighs.

She's a little worried about her concert because her audience will probably belong to the AB crowd. Most of her concerts have been produced for the *masa* so she doesn't know if her classy audience will like her repertoire. She kids us that she might just take off her clothes if they don't like her singing!

That's not such a bad idea...

Party music

Meanwhile, Caroline Hofer, Carmelle Sison and Elaine Tadena of Silk bring their brand of '70s to '90s party music this month to bars and lounges in the country.

The band will be at Conway's on Mondays, at Strumm's El Pueblo on Tuesdays, Dish at Rockwell on Fridays, at Club High Altitude on Nov. 23 and at Chatterbox Galleria on Nov. 27.

Only three years in the music scene, Silk's high-energy sound, reminiscent of Jennifer Lopez, Destiny's Child and Janet Jackson has won them a recording contract with Sony Music, under which they are set to release an album early next year.

Performing with the band are bassist Anbier Dayan, drummer Jason Balunes, guitarist Warren de Leon and keyboardist Ruel de los Santos.

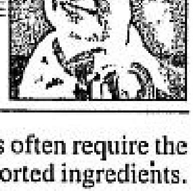
JAVIER. All covered up.

SILK. High-energy sound.

ANN and her holiday goodies.

Ann Puno's pistachio and prune walnut cakes are to die for

STREET SMART



Mandy Navasero

THE year 2001 has been quite difficult, not only for the Philippines, but for many other countries. Truly, the economy has been a persistent source of global concern, which has tested many entrepreneurs to the limit. Despite the obstacles, however, the Filipino's resilience continues to demonstrate itself.

Adaptability

Nothing exemplifies the adaptability of Filipinos better than our thriving entrepreneurs, simple housewives who create business opportunities for themselves at home.

They continue to raise a family, but contribute substantially to the family's source of income. Better yet, some of these ladies choose to do seasonal production, to meet the demands of the Christmas season.

The delectable home-baked goodies of Ann Santa Cruz Puno have been, for many Christmases now, welcome staple fare for the traditional Christmas day lunch and the New Year's Eve dinner of many discriminating households.

Ann's specialties include freshly baked cakes and entrees for Christmas. The cakes which have been consistently popular include Pistachio, Prune Walnut, Kahlua Toffee, Vanilla Brandy, Holiday Chocolate, Carrot and Prune. I particularly go for the Pistachio and Prune Walnut cakes.

In addition, Ann also prepares excellent Dulong in Olive Oil, Quesong Puti in Herbs & Spices, Chicken Relleno, and Callos.

Ann's products often require the use of special imported ingredients. How she is able to source her imported ingredients is a wonder in itself.

Orders

"I have a brother and sister who live abroad," she says. "As early as June, I already place my orders through my relatives, and my ingredients are delivered to me via the old reliable 'Balikbayan' boxes, before the mad rush of Christmas begins."

Thus, this lady entrepreneur is able to ensure that all her specially-baked products continue to be extra-special treats during the holiday season.

Aware of the tight Christmas budget of many homes, Ann has special budget-saver packages which will be greatly appreciated by any gift recipient. She bakes miniature cakes in varied flavors and places them in very presentable boxes.

This way, one can have small portions of different flavors, almost like a taster's sampler, at a budget-conscious price.

For orders, call Ann at 807-6431.

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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

The making of a Filipino-American film

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

THE SCREENPLAY of "The Debut" is a fast and easy read that plays with somber themes without getting dragged down. Such issues as race and ethnic identity, sexual politics and class values are aired and threshed out. Director Gene Cajayon said that he wanted the film to be "snappy, poppy, entertaining," and the script is certainly all of that.

Hang-ups

Ben, the main character, inspires sympathy, empathy even. One likes him and can understand his hang-ups. However, Filipinas and Filipina-Americans have one-dimensional characterizations, as Mabalon also points out. Still, it isn't much of a problem because the movie still manages to make its points concerning gender and sexual politics quite clearly.

What we read isn't exactly what we'll get however, as Cajayon and Castro explain in their introduction: "We have included a number of scenes we meant to shoot, but couldn't because of budget and time constraints," they wrote, "and scenes we shot, but deleted because of pacing requirements. We even included scenes that made the final cut, but were produced in ways that were completely different from their original conception in the script."

Fil-American culture

Dawn Bohulano Mabalon's essay, "The Making of 'The Debut,'" is essential reading especially for those of us who don't have a good grasp of Filipino-American culture. She chronicles the film's "arduous journey from a student project to a Filipina/o American phenomenon." She also gives a helpful analysis of "The Debut's" political, cultural and historic significance.

She explains, for example, the concept of the debut: "An expensive debut is a sure-fire sign of Filipina/o American upper middle class status or in the case of less affluent Filipina/os, a second mortgage." Rose's 18th birthday party is not a "debut" in the conventional sense, for like many Pinays, she is working class… Where more elite Filipino families spend upwards of $10,000 to $15,000 on fancy "hotel debuts" and cotillions at Hiltons and Radissons, Rose has what is more popularly called a "hall party," a party held at the local high school's gym."

Difficulties

We mentioned earlier that the filmmakers encountered difficulties in making "The Debut"—so many, in fact, that it took them almost a decade to complete the film.

It all began in 1992 at the Loyola Marymount University where Gene Cajayon was majoring in film. "Frustrated with the negative, one-dimensional portrayals of Filipina/os and Asians in the media," he decided to make a short entitled "Debut," about a Filipino-American boy whose identity crisis is resolved during his sister's debut, for his thesis. His initial effort turned out to be a tad too elitist for most and so he sought help from John Manal Castro (maker of the critically acclaimed mockumentary "Diary of a Gangsta Sucka"), who "brought a dose of street credibility and class consciousness to the script." By this time, the movie was no longer just a short done for thesis purposes but a full-length feature film in the making. It would take them many more years to accomplish this.

ALAJAR. Plays the Fil-Am protagonist's mother.

Lack of funding

The biggest obstacle in their path was funding—the absolute lack of it. A grant was awarded by the National Asian American Telecommunications Association and investors started trickling in, but the film was never able to attract all the needed investors. "I spent 12 to 14 hours a day on the shoot," Cajayon recalls, "then at night I got on the phone to hustle, bustle and beg for money. Then on the one day I had off, I went to the bank and creatively moved money around to try to find more funding. I begged, borrowed and stole, and maxed out all my credit cards." We can't help but admire this guy, not only for his talent but for his determination and resourcefulness as well.

Neglected community

It's a crying shame that talented filmmakers with potentially ball-busting ideas never seem to get the support they need. Still, with the success of "The Debut," it is hoped that other Filipino American filmmakers can work up the courage to make more films about their very much-neglected community.

"We hope this book will enhance your appreciation of the film and inspire those who want to tell their own Filipino or Asian stories," write the screenwriters in their introduction to "The Debut: The Making of a Filipino American Film."

No to be missed

After reading this book, we who have not yet seen the film will surely be the first to watch it upon its release in the Philippines. As for those who haven't read the book or watched the movie, we can in all honesty guarantee that you won't want to miss it.

"The Debut" stars Danté Basco (Rufio Spielberg's Hook) as Ben, Gina Alajar as his mother, Tirso Cruz III as Roland, Bernadette Balagtas as Rose, Eddie Garcia as his grandfather, and Joy Bisco as Annabelle.

AM/FM

Rene Mariano interprets dreams on the air

By Rito P. Asilo

WE remember watching Rene Mariano's calm demeanor on "See True," in the '80s. The show's huge following was due to its jaw-dropping scandals, intrigues and out-of-this-world show biz characters. Among the usual guests were seers who sounded and even looked laughable.

Logical

While the occult and the supernatural weren't really our cup of tea, Mariano was one of the more believable of those seers because he sounded logical and sane. Others simply looked like kooks and sounded even worse.

We were surprised to catch him on the radio, particularly on dwIZ's midnight programming ("Hiwaga, Himala at Mga Panaginip, 10 to 11 p.m., 882 kHz on AM), and found the medium perfect for the program's type of format.

In the show, Mariano's listeners asked about love, education, death, what their dreams meant, or even business concerns. People have always wanted to know the future long before takes place.

The questions were straightforward: "*Magkakatuluyan ba kami ng* boyfriend *ko* of 11 years? I'm 27, he's 29." (Mariano's answer: "I don't think so."); "Should I push through with my *embotido* business?" ("No, *uutangan ka lang*," Rene answered.).

His listeners got it straight from him—no wishy-washy and philosophical ploys to buck questions that were hard to answer.

Caution

But Mariano practises caution, too. A listener asked if he was going to pass the board exam, but Mariano refused to answer. He explained, "If I answer, it may have a psychological effect on you."

Another portion of his program featured topics like "soulmates' He said soulmates are "spiritual sides of themselves." He further explained, "It takes 50 to 75 years to find out if a person is truly one's soulmate. If you don't argue with him or her for 50 years, then he or she must be your soulmate." Whew! That's a lifetime, if you ask us!

He got a lot of inquiries about dreams and what they meant, and it looked like Mariano knew his trade.

A woman said she dreamed that a stranger was following her around. She ended up floating in a deep body of water and then found herself flying, while a vision of a wedding played in front of her mind's eye. Upon landing, she saw a severed head, avoided it, prayed, and woke up panting.

Mariano's interpretation: She wants to fall in love but is afraid of getting hurt, scared of making a mistake. She may have a boyfriend working offshore, and another guy may be pining for her affections—and she's torn between them.

Hometown

Last week, another listener dreamed of visiting her hometown. In the dream, she met a female cousin, and the smiling mother of a guy who was courting her, while they attended a graduation ceremony. She then found herself in a puddle of mud, cut her slippers, and saw two visions of flowing, raging waters—one was clean, the other dirty. She saw tricycles on her way to wherever she was going.

Mariano's interpretation: Something is confusing her, probably her lovelife. A graduation is either a person's happiest or saddest moment. A tricycle symbolizes three wheels. The torn slippers may mean that the woman may have caught herself in a love triangle. Water symbolizes life's emotions and spirituality. Clean water means a calm emotion, dirty water may signify passion, confusion.

From the show, we also learned how Mariano interpreted visions of a commercial building ("A symbol of your own consciousness. You are much too focused on work"); seeing an uncle ("A symbol of the opposite sex"); seeing your father ("Symbol of one's ideal man"); seeing a dead person ("This doesn't mean someone's going to die, but it's a manifestation of how bored you are with your life"); stagnant water ("You wonder if you would still marry, or if your life will still change. A psychological hint of discontent").

Laudable

What was laudable about Mariano was that he didn't claim to have magical powers. His show mouthed a lot of passages from the Bible, and even attempted to explain things in a scientific manner ("Science considers water the symbol of life because there's a theory that every living form comes from it").

What drove us nuts, though, were the show's many commercials. In a recent episode, Mariamo managed to read only two or three letters, because he kept plugging a food supplement and other products on-air.

The show ended with canned music, featuring eerie strains of "My Heart Will Go On," creaking doors, and a deep male voice laughing in reverb, culled straight from the intro and ending of Michael Jackson's "Thriller." But maybe it can't be helped if "Hiwaga, Himala at Mga Panaginip" needs "cheesy bookends" to create an identity for a radio program that is not as cheesy as it initially seems.

Revisiting the past

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

THERE'S that spot on Tomas Morato ave., right after the gasoline station at the corner of E. Rodriguez ave. in Quezon City, that I used to avoid with a passion. I went to great lengths to use alternate even if longer, more circuitous routes, or I dramatically closed my eyes or made an elaborate gesture of looking the other way, whenever my car passed by it.

Painful memories

Yes, that's the place where Loca Production used to hold office. And, for the longest time, the mere act of passing by it stabbed me. It opened a dam of painful memories. It awakened that usually dormant section in my heart exclusively reserved for rage. To be sure, I had a lot of happy times there—but it was also the site of a lot of betrayals.

Last Sunday, I was finally able to exorcise the ghosts that haunted my memories of that place. For one, the building that housed Loca Productions is no longer there. That helped heal the wounds and I'm now able to revisit the past not just without pain but also with joy. For another, in that place now stands a cool and trendy resto provocatively called Wild Green, where we threw a surprise birthday party for my youngest daughter, Klang.

It was good friend Carina Agarao of Crusade Against Violence who introduced me to Henry and Lily Uy's Wild Green. Immediately, I loved the sinfully delicious food—a merry mix of different cuisines from around the world that both tickled and challenged the palate. The spring rolls that came in veggie and pork varieties were simply divine. The *chap chae* was an Oriental fiesta of gastronomical sensations. The mango tart that melted in the mouth was to die for. Honest!

Klang celebrated her 16th birthday last Sunday. It was made special by the presence of family and friends but it was the food of Wild Green that made it memorable.

Diferent areas

As I was sitting there waiting for Klang's guests to arrive, my mind meandered to the past as I poignantly tried to picture the different areas of the three-level Loca office—and the many things that happened in each of them.

I had a great time renovating and furnishing the office. The biggest challenge was maximizing the limited space. The ground floor had the receiving area, the office staff, the kitchen and the dining rooms, my private office, and the indoor garden where I installed a mechanized mini-waterfall.

The mezzanine housed the editing, scoring, dubbing and post production facilities. The top floor had Bo's office, the mini-studio, and the graphics and special effects room. The upper sections were always alive at night because editing was usually done at that time.

Actually, the Loca office was a beehive, always abuzz with activity, no matter the time of day or night.

There was always a stream of movie stars that flowed in and out of Loca's doors. I either interviewed them as part of the promo campaign for their upcoming movies, or they sought me out to just unload or cry on my shoulders.

Yes, I did most of my promo interviews there. Sometimes, it was deep into the night but I was still there, trying valiantly to appear sprightly for the camera. There was a time, in just one session, that I did no less than 18 interviews! It was hard for me but I knew it was harder for the stars. They tried to appear convincing and intelligent—or at least not stupid—as they gave me their "this movie is the greatest I've ever done in my entire career' line at way past midnight!

Private conversations

I had a cramped, little nook where I did my private conversations with the stars. It was there that an actor confided to me that he attempted suicide twice because of an ill-starred love affair. It was also there that an actress tearfully confessed to me her role in the controversial filmfest scam. A sexy star related to me the sexual proficiencies of the actors she had shared her bed with.

An actress-daughter of a political VIP encircled a date on my wall calendar in that room as the day she had agreed to wed an action star despite the violent protestations of her mom. An actress also revealed to me how she trysted with a very much married action superstar.

I interviewed not just movie stars but also ordinary people with extraordinary stories. There was a *manggagamot* who claimed to have the power to grant wishes by literally *frying* pictures! Like, he'd fry the photo of the man you wanted to marry and the guy would fall madly in love with you. Or he'd fry the image of your enemy, who would then contract some strange ailment.

I can't recall the number of faith healers I interviewed. Like, the one who butchered a chicken and a goat right there in Loca's parking lot. Or the one who scribbled unintelligible doodles on pieces of paper and later read them as messages from the dead or, even more incredibly, from God.

Field day

Yes, I also interviewed "divine personages" there. I mean, I had a field day interviewing people who claimed they were the Sto. Niño, God the Father, Mama Mary, etc.

At that time, I called them nominees to the Aliw Awards—which meant they were *pang-aliw lamang po*. But now I have done some serious rethinking about them.

Loca was also a little *tiangge*, a magnet for all kinds of hawkers—those who sold all kinds of items, from imported clothes to fashion accessories, to native delicacies like *chicharon* and *puto*, to home appliances, insurance plans, fruits, pets, bags, shoes, toys, etc. There was even a time when a man went to sell—an infant. The price was P 10,000. My staff scolded him, but before we could report him to the DSWD, he was gone.

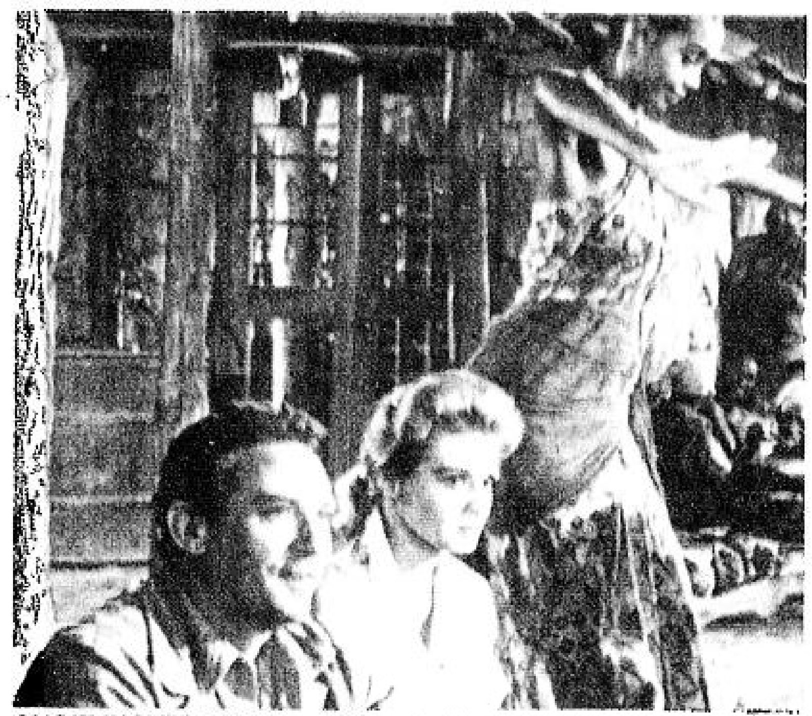
Because my TV show then, "Eye to Eye" had a public service component, the Loca office was always deluged with donations for all kinds of calamities—the June 16, 1991 earthquake, the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, the Ozone disco tragedy, the Bocaue fluvial parade disaster, the Doña Paz sea disaster, the yearly typhoons and floods, and many more.

Weeks before we conducted relief distribution projects, there was round-the-clock repacking of all the donated items. The mood was always festive. As everyone did his share to help, there was a nice feeling in the heart born out of knowing that we were making a difference in the lives of those stricken by deep tragedy and loss.

Ah, the Loca office was a treasure chest of wonderful reminiscences, after all. I don't remember anymore why I used to avoid passing that spot on Tomas Morato ave. In fact, I look forward to having dinner there again to savor not just the fine Wild Green food, but the even finer Loca memories.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 10 - NOV 16

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E!
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 Auto Focus 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Wing Commander 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Ms. America 2002 Part 1* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Imbestigador 6:30 Bitoy's World 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Malcolm In The Middle 7:30 Simpsons 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Dorothy Stratten* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 Business & Leisure 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Thelma and Louise* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Pokemon 7:30 Sinerama 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment Tonight Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 It's A Miracle 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Smalltown X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 FYE *Playboy TV Latin America* 7:30 FYE *Playboy Mansion Cigar Party* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Anna Nicole Smith* 10:00 In Focus
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:30 Home Along Da Riles 10:00 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Speed 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 F 6:30 Mahha Go Go Go 7:00 The Big Night *The Temp* 9:00 Life With Roger 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonballZ 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:00 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:30 Wild On *Waikiki* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:30 Oka Tokat 10:00 Pwedeng-Pwede 11:00 Headlines	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Sharpe's Battle Part 2* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series 11:30 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:00 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools 7:00 Priemtime Classics 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Reese Witherspoon* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:30 Whattamen 10:00 Your Honor 11:00 Headlines	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonBall Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bote Nga 10:00 Larawan 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Level 9 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Newswatch Now 11:10 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo Ay Langit	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Now Music 6:30 Soundcheck 7:00 Priemtime Classics 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:30 Wild On *Windy City* 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:30 Attagirl 10:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines	4:00 Shop @ Home 5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Concert At The Park 11:00 Fora Medica	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Normal Ohio 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:00 New York Undercover	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Daddy Di Do Du 10:00 Sinerama 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 The Basketball Show 11:30 Souvenirs of the 20th century	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Behind The Music 7:00 Priemtime Classics 7:30 Cineplex 23 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Jeff Bridges* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Uncut *Vanessa Williams* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:00 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:30 Game K N B? 9:30 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 TrueCrime	4:00 MBA 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Patrol 117 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Lazer Patrol 6:30 Starcom 7:00 By Request 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Echo*	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonBall Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:00 GMA Love Stories 11:00 Front Page 11:30 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Dharma & Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Game 1 7:30 PBA Game 2 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Halo-Halo 7:00 Priemtime Classics 7:30 Survivor: Africa 8:30 Mortal Combat 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:30 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 10:30 Wild On *Spain* 12:00 Talk Soup



ANGIE DICKINSON. (second from left) with co-star Peter Finch. She walked out of a televised tribute.

Entertainment highlights remembered

IN 1938, the radio play "War of the Worlds," starring Orson Welles, aired on CBS. Using fake news bulletins and simulated on-scene reports to portray an invasion by Martians, the broadcast sparked panic among listeners who thought the dramatized events were authentic.

In 1969, Elvis Presley had his first No. 1 single in seven years with "Suspicious Minds."

Jail

In 1970, Jim Morrison of The Doors was sentenced to eight months in jail and fined $500 dollars for exposing himself in Miami.

Also in 1970, singer Michelle Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas married actor Dennis Hopper. They divorced after eight days.

In 1972, James Taylor and Carly Simon got married at Simon's New York apartment. They announced their marriage that night at Taylor's concert at Radio City Music Hall.

In 1977, Elton John announced at a London performance that he was retiring from concerts. He started performing again in 1979.

Breakup

In 1982, singer Paul Weller announced the breakup of the British band The Jam.

In 1988, singer Debbie Gibson held a seance at her Halloween party to contact Liberace and Sid Vicious.

In 1993, actor River Phoenix died of a drug overdose after collapsing outside the Viper Room nightclub in Los Angeles. He was 23.

In 1961, Brian Epstein first saw the Beatles perform at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. He soon became the band's manager.

In 1970, Brian Wilson made a rare appearance with the Beach Boys at the Whisky-A-Go-Go in Los Angeles. He lost his balance several times and had to be helped off the stage.

First Sex Pistols concert

In 1975, the Sex Pistols played their first concert, at a London art school dance. Ten minutes into it, the school social programmer unplugged their amps.

In 1978, the band Boston played the city of Boston for the first time, in a sold-out show.

Also in 1978, Greg Reeves, a former bassist for Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, sued his former bandmates for $1 million in unpaid royalties.

In 1990, the 200th episode of NBC's "Cheers" aired in a one-hour special. Original cast member Shelley Long made a special appearance.

Indecent exposure

In 1991, actor Paul Reubens, better known as Pee-wee Herman, pleaded no contest to an indecent exposure charge. He had been arrested in Sarasota, Florida, for allegedly exposing himself in a movie theater.

In 1992, a judge found Axl Rose guilty of assault and property damage in a riot at a 1991 Guns N' Roses concert near St. Louis. Rose's sentence was suspended and he was put on probation. He also was ordered to pay $10,000 each to five charities.

In 1993, actress Angie Dickinson became the first person in 500 shows to walk out of a televised "This Is Your Life" tribute.

In 1995, model-actress Anna Nicole Smith was hospitalized for an adverse reaction to prescription medication. *AP*

The music of Emy Munji and son-in-law Franco Laurel

By Remy M. Umerez

VETERAN composer-arranger Emy Munji is releasing his very first solo CD, "My First 70 Years." Its line-up is representative of the songs Mang Emy has been playing, arranging and composing.

Born on Sept. 15, 1931 in San Juan, Munji's involvement with music started at an early age. While ordinary boys would play with toys, he played a piano which was given to him by his grandparents. He went to church solely to play the church organ. He was taught by his uncle the rudiments of music, known as "solfegio."

Guitar

Music motivated Emy during his schooldays. He became the official piano player on campus. To improve his musical craft, he played the guitar with the high school band.

At UST, where he took his Masters in Composition at the Conservatory of Music, Mang Emy formed a band with some of his brothers, the "Munjinettes." They rehearsed at home.

Among his college mates who shared his talents were: Ernani Cuenco, Sylvia La Torre, Irma Potenciano and Fr. Manuel Maramba.

During his college days, he traveled extensively through Europe, the Middle East and Asia. His mentors, Resty Umali, Josefina Cenizal and Polding Silos, paved the way to his arranging and scoring for the movies. Mang Emy was also a staff arranger for Villar Records.

Influential role

He played an influential role in the careers of Pilita Corrales, Jose Mari Chan, Bert Nievera, Pinky de Leon, Dale Ardriatico, Jun Polistico and the New Minstrels. When Martin Nievera started his career, Munji was one of his song arrangers.

His marriage to Teresita (Baby), a former "Dance O Rama" queen, inspired Emy even more. They produced four children gifted in the arts.

Each songs in the CD is uniquely Emy Munji.

"My Musical Travelogue" with a running time of 19 minutes and 42 seconds, is a trip to the different countries and musical styles which inspired Mang Emy to create his own music.

He provides his own personal and sentimental touch in the arrangements of "Give Me The Old Bug Band Anytime," "Temptation" "Once In A While" and "Noong Unang Panahon."

He collaborates with daughter Ayen in composing "How Can I" "Mamahalin" and "Squatty Roo" with great poignancy.

Reading the CD's liner notes helps us further appreciate the legendary Mang Emy's music.

"My First 70 Years" is produced by Mang Emy's son Willie, with wife Baby and daughter Ayen Laurel as executive producers. It is distributed by Viva.

Greatest passion

For his part, Franco Laurel did not feel bad when "Keep On Dancing" ended its run on exit on television. With a less hectic schedule, Franco can concentrate in fulfilling his greatest passion—singing.

On Nov. 23 and 24, Franco mounts an intimate two-night concert, titled "Franco," at Music Museum.

Produced by his own company (FRL), the show includes The Company, John Lapus, Agot Isidro's, and Franco's wife, Ayen Munji.

"The Music Museum is a perfect venue because I can interact with the audience. My wife and I will do a duet of our wedding song "With You," Franco reveals.

MUNJI. Started playing the piano at an early age.

TV movies this week

By Noelani Torre

PROMISING films on HBO:

"Tequila Sunrise"

Saturday, Nov. 10, 5:30 p.m. Oscar-winner Robert Towne directs Mel Gibson Michelle Pfeiffer, and Kurt Russell in this sizzling noirish action thriller.

Two old friends, a supposedly retired drug dealer (Gibson) and a fast-rising L.A. cop (Russell) clash with each other in their jobs and personal lives. Pfeiffer is the restaurant owner who comes between them and Raul Julia plays the drug lord who adds to the conflict.

"Band of Brothers 4: 'Replacements'

Saturday, Nov. 10, 5:30 p.m. Continuing the story of the men of Easy Company, this episode chronicles the arrival of fresh paratrooper replacements just in time for a massive drop into German-occupied Holland for Operation Market Garden.

The company sustains more casualities as they are repelled from a nearby town by a superior German force.

"Mother Night"

Sunday, Nov. 11, 7:45 a.m. This is writer-producer Robert B. Weide's adaptation of the classic novel by Kurt Vonnegut. It tells the thought-provoking story of an American who's standing trial as a Nazi war criminal, when he was actually spying for the US during the war. Nick Nolte plays the challaneging lead role in this somber, fascinating, and unsettling film.

"The Paper"

Sunday, Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m. Starring Michale Keaton, Glenn Close, Robert Duvall, Marisa Tomei, and other big stars, this movie chronicles 24 hours in the hectic life of a New York newspaper.

It's also the tale of the harried lives of its editors who are juggling their troubled private lives and their demanding, deadline-ruled jobs. Directed by Ron Howard, this adrenaline-rushed movie is a literally breathless watch.

"The Out-of-Towners"

Sunday, Nov. 11, 1 p.m. Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn star in this comic caper about a clueless couple in the Big Apple. They get into embarrassing and hilarious scrapes as they try to go about their business. An aristocratic hotel manager from hell (played by John Cleese) adds to the laughs.

"Trading Places"

Monday, Nov. 12, 7:30 a.m. Eddie Murphy is a comic powerhouse in this outrageous comedy about a streetsmart conman and a rich snob who switch lives. Murphy plays the street hustler and Dan Aykroyd is the hilarious preppie who goes from wealth to woe. Also stars Ralph Bellamy, Don Ameche, and Jamie Lee Curtis.

"The Godfather, Part III"

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 12:45 p.m. The last part of the classic Mafioso epic, this is the absorbing story of a Mafia don's (Al Pacino) attempt to get out of the crime world and how he and his family are reeled back in. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola and written by Mario Puzo.

"Band of Brothers 5: 'Crossroads"

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 10 p.m. Directed by Tom Hanks himself, this episode is set in Holland, where Easy Company emerges victorious from a risky mission on a dike.

Led by Lieutenant Winters, this victory results in his promotion to Battalion Executive Officer. After this, the company is once again sent to the front lines, ill-equipped for the cold and the entrenched battle ahead.

"The Hunt for Red October"

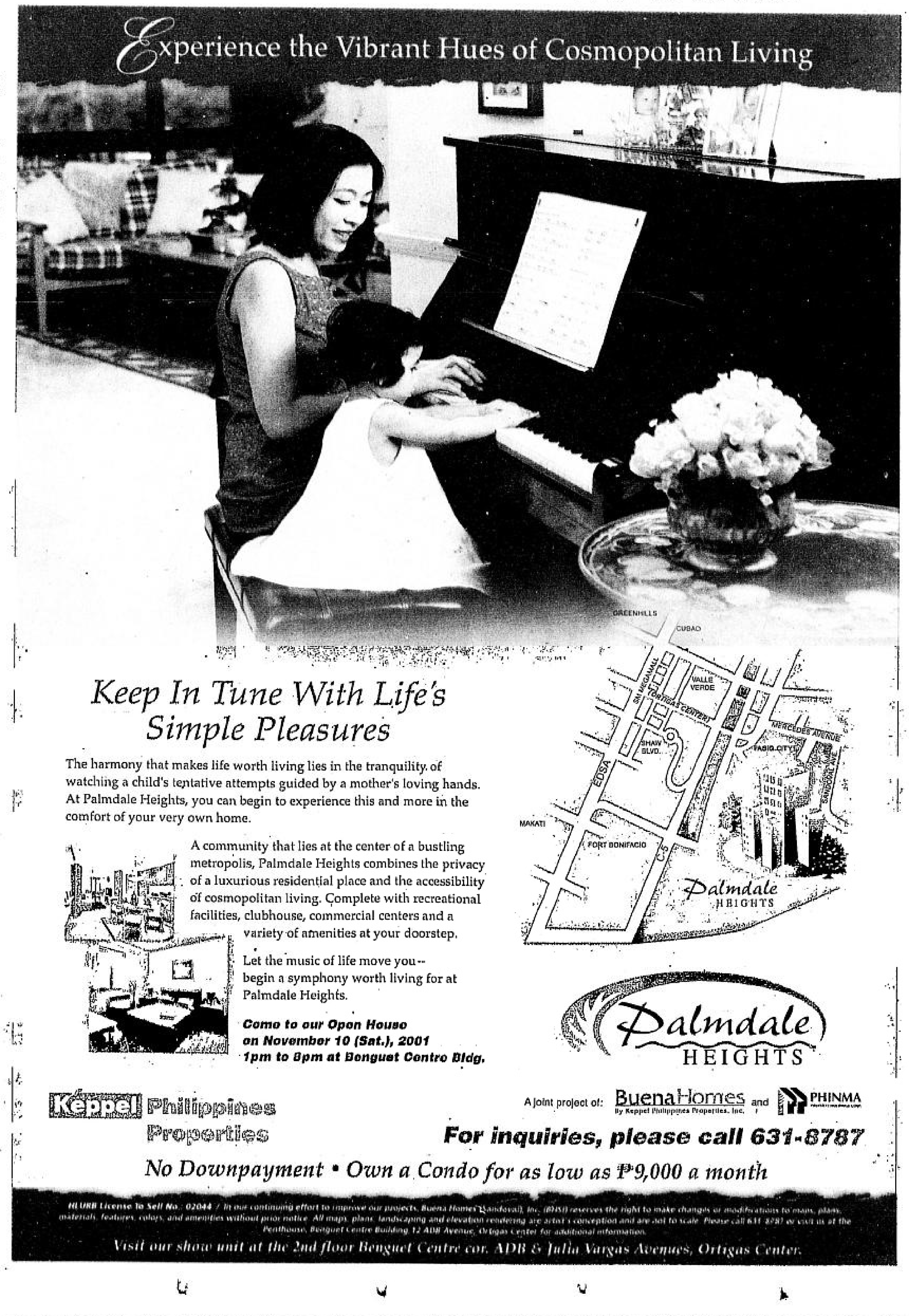
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 6:45 p.m. Based on the Tom Clancy bestseller, this exciting and complex thriller stars Sean Connery as a Soviet submarine captain on board a nuclear sub on its way to America. Alec Baldwin is the CIA analyst who tries to hunt him down. Directed by John Mc Tiernan, the movie also stars James Earl Jones, Sam Neill and Tim Curry.

"Flashdance"

Thursday, Nov. 15, 4 p.m. This AdrianLyne-directed smash hit of the '80s is best remembered for its Oscar-winning title song. Highly energetic and chock-full of glitzy images this film captures the spirit of the '80s.

TVMOVIES/p.D7

GIBSON. Plays a retired drug dealer in "Tequila Sunrise."



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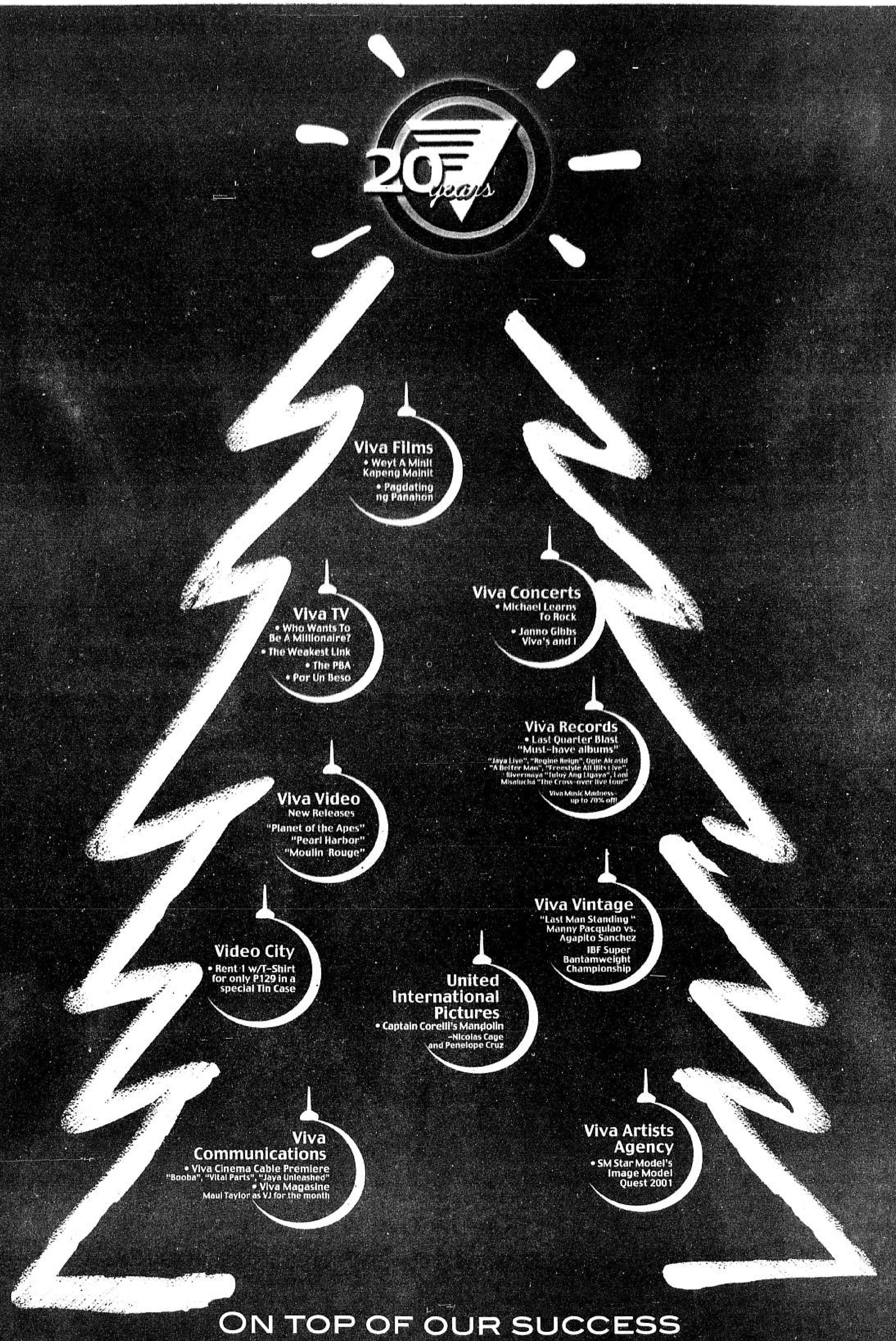
Visit our show unit at the 2nd floor Benguet Centre cor. ADB & Julia Vargas Avenues, Ortigas Center.



Viva Films
- Weyt A Minit Kapeng Mainit
- Pagdating ng Panahon

Viva Concerts
- Michael Learns To Rock
- Janno Gibbs Viva's and I

Viva TV
- Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?
- The Weakest Link
- The PBA
- Por Un Beso

Viva Records
- Last Quarter Blast "Must-have albums"

"Jaya Live", "Regine Reign", Ogie Alcasid
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Top fashion models and Hollywood

BY BEHN CERVANTES

TO AN adoring public the world over, the most glamorous set of women after Hollywood stars are high fashion models. Of late, some of these tall and leggy dames have become superstars in their own right.

Statuesque

Names like Cindy, Naomi and Linda have become familiar. Anyone with access to television and mass media knows the likes of statuesque Cindy Crawford, Hispanic Linda Evangelista and ebony Naomi Campbell. There is also Tyra Banks, another African American beauty, and six-footer Elle Macpherson from Down Under.

Classy English beauty Elizabeth Hurley is doing very well on the big screen even as her glamorous pictures in fashion magazines sells millions of dollars' worth of Lancome cosmetic products. She replaced the soulful-looking Isabella Rosellini, the daughter of screen great Ingrid Bergman and Italian director-auteur Roberto Rosellini as the product's fashionable endorser.

These are formidable women who represent the radical changes occurring in high fashion. They have also captivated the world's imagination over the last 25 years or so with their drop-dead looks and fashion flair. They are modern, classic, hip. They represent today's eclectic tastes.

In the not too distant past, there were other significant names like Iman of Ethiopia, Cheryl Tiegs, Lauren Hutton, Cybil Sheppard and Christie Brinkley. Iman married Sting, the English singer-actor. Brinkley divorced composer-singer Billy Joel after many years of marriage.

Waif

Who can forget the waif, Twiggy, as unique-looking and different as her name? A wisp of a girl and so skinny as to cause maternal alarm, the Cockney teenager gave fashion its distinctive '60s look. She also made the starved look fashionable, thus leading young women in the following decades towards the neurotic paths of bulimia and anorexia.

While some misguided women today strive to look like she did in the '60s, Twiggy is happily performing onstage in musicals like "The Boyfriend," 20 pounds heavier than during her modeling years.

Veruschka with her leonine tresses and daddy-long-legs was a visual standout. She epitomized high but unconventional glamour, exotic dreams and feline determination. She exuded a tinge of danger that thrilled the world, thus making her a fashion superstar. Challenging the German model for those coveted magazine covers was Jean Shrimpton, the English beauty who invented the slouch.

These models' uniquely attractive faces have graced the covers of Vogue, Cosmopolitan, People, Elle, Seventeen, Sports Illustrated and other glossy magazines. A couple of them have been prominent and influential enough to merit being on the prestigious covers of Time and Newsweek.

Mass media

However, it is mass media, through its global reach, that has "made" the superstar models of today like Cindy, Linda and Naomi even more famous and internationally recognizable. Their fame has grown by leaps and bounds with the help of many television shows that feature their unique personalities, or live appearances in interview shows hosted by David Letterman, Jay Leno and Oprah Winfrey that have followers world-wide.

They have contributed immensely to the creation of a global look, as well as a glamorous veneer that's now internationally accepted. The changing and individual styles they champion have impacted on women's tastes and aspirations the world over.

Their ascent as well as the immense sums they earn as models and product endorsers are sure signs the world recognizes Fashion as Big Business. It also accepts the undeniable fact that the woman market is awesome and profitable. As influential icons, they can dictate taste and encourage market trends. They are instrumental in making those billions of profitable dollars the fashion business now enjoys.

A glamorous background that is accented by sultry looks tested by photographers' cameras is a distinct advantage for a lucrative screen career. Can the lure of Hollywood then be far behind for interested fashion models?

Indeed, many models head for Hollywood after achieving success in the exciting world of fashion. Revlon signature model Suzy Parker starred with two-time Academy Award winner Gary Cooper in "10 North Frederick" after she appeared with Cary Grant in "Kiss Them For Me." She then co-starred with still another Hollywood legend, Joan Crawford, in "The Best of Everything."

Right breaks

The gal was given the right breaks. She was even in consideration for the title role in "Cleopatra" that went to the one and only Elizabeth Taylor, whose "serpent" image was strengthened by her adulterous affair with crooner Eddie Fisher.

Eddie was then married to "diabetically-sweet" Debbie Reynolds, who personified not only the average Jane but also the young miss swooning for Tammy, a Prince Charming of the Bayou kind. Beside the ultra-glamorous Taylor, Debbie was a plain Jane.

Seventeen magazine regular Maggie McNarmarra starred with William Holden in Otto Preminger's controversial adaptation of the play "The Moon Is Blue." Teenager Carol Lynley, also a Seventeen favorite, appeared in yet another adaptation of a Broadway play, "Blue Denim." The drama bravely tackled the topic of teenage sex, as well as its emotional trauma.

Picture-pretty Millie Perkins, who was handpicked by Robert Wise for "The Diary of Anne Frank" also starred with screen and music giant Elvis Presley in "Love Me Tender."

Major films

They quickly come to mind because these fashion stars were assigned to grace major films with big Hollywood box office names. They were also given ample and widespread publicity that established them early in their film careers.

However, for various reasons, they faded from the glamorous scene. They could neither maintain the audience's initial interest nor create an image of durable screen value. These days, they are only to be found as older, fatter and less glamorous supporting actors in television shows.

How often have I caught myself momentarily glued to the small screen trying to figure out that voice, those familiar eyes, that distinct look now camouflaged by age and lots of extra pounds? I get an acidic stomach when I finally exclaim in shocked recognition, "Hey, that's Millie!" or, "Oh no, its Carol Lynley!" or, *"That's Maggie?!!"* ***(To be concluded)***

TWIGGY. She made the starved look fashionable.

TV movies this week

(From page D5)

"The Red Violin"

Thursday, Nov. 15, 12:55 a.m. This is the extraordinary tale of a special violin's creation and journey through time and place. The film jumps from era to era as the story of the violin's travels and the lives it affects is slowly revealed. Thoroughly captivating, it stars Samuel L. Jackson, Greta Scacchi and Sylvia Chang.

Films on the Cinemax movie channel:

"Marnie"

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m. Directed by legendary shock-meister Alfred Hitchcock, this mystery thriller is about Marnie Edgar (Tippi Hedren), an habitual thief who uses her beauty to win her employers' confidence and to rob them blind. Sean Connery is one employer who knows her for what she is and decides to watch her so as to understand her illness.

"Bugsy"

Saturday, Nov. 10, 4:15 a.m. Warren Beatty plays Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, the fabled crackpot gangster who helped build Las Vegas. Beatty gives a forceful performance and heats up the screen with a starlet played by real-life flame Annette Bening.

"Shakespeare in Love"

Sunday, Nov. 11, 10:45 a.m. Concerning a young playwright named Will Shakespeare and the lady he loves but cannot have, this romantic comedy walked away with the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1999. With an incisive screenplay by Marc Norman and playwright Tom Stoppard, and a stellar cast (Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes, Ben Affleck, Dame Judi Dench and Geofrey Rush), this films is truly a winner.

"The Philadelphia Experiment"

Monday, Nov. 12, 4:15 p.m. Starring Michael Pare, Nancy Allen, and Bobby DiCiccio, this suspense thriller tells the story of two World War II sailors who fall through a hole in time and end up 41 years in the future. An intriguing and entertaining watch.

"What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?"

Monday, Nov. 12, 3:30 a.m. Bette Davis is the demented "Baby Jane" Hudson in this engaging black comedy, while Joan Crawford plays her crippled sister, Blanche. Davis terrifies her poor sister and does a hair-raising tap dance act.

"Private Benjamin"

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 9:30 a.m. Judy Benjamin, a flighty Jewish-American Princess, enlists in the Army to stave off depression. Basic training is a disaster, then she finds direction and self-esteem for the first time in her life. Goldie Hawn plays Private Benjamin and her terrific performance earned her an Oscar nomination.

"The Ugly American"

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m. Marlon Brando is an American ambassador to Sarkan, a fictional Asian country, in this intriguing political drama. He is "the ugly American," whose arrival in Sarkan stirs up pro-communist elements which threaten that country's already shaky peace.

"The Cotton Club"

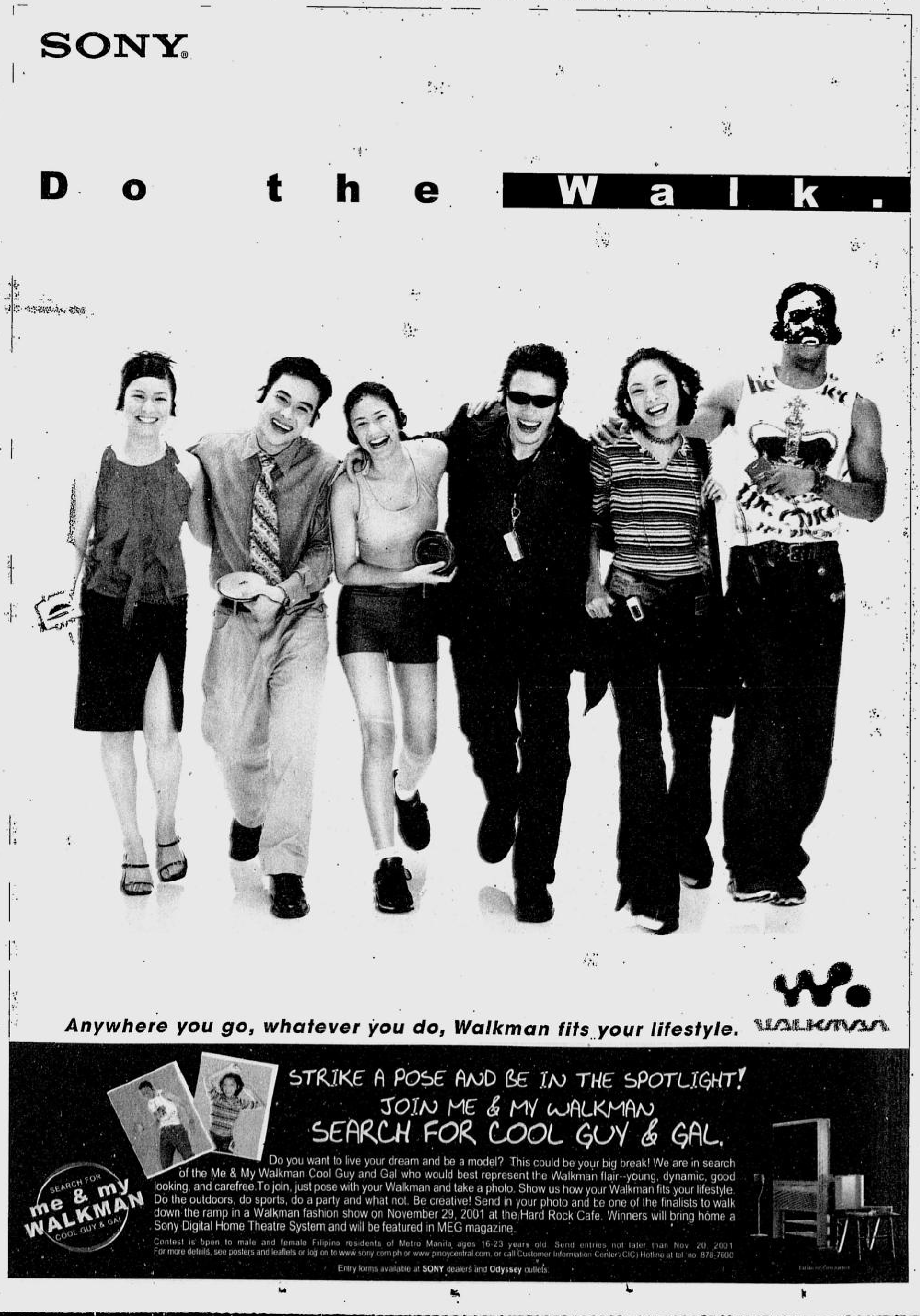
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 8 a.m. This stylish and visually striking film pays homage to the colorful world of 1920s-1930s Harlem. Richard Gere is a cornet player who falls in love with his gangster protector's mistress, played by Diane Lane. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola, this film also has an electrifying soundtrack.

"What Planet Are You From?"

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 11:45 a.m. Gary Shandling plays Harold, an alien who has to impregnate an earthling, in this Mike Nichols-directed comedy. Annette Bening plays the woman who might be the solution to this problem—but she wants to get married before having sex. Hilarious and offbeat, this movie also stars Greg Kinnear.

"Psycho"

Thursday, Nov. 15, 7:30 Alfred Hitchcock's most notorious film, spawning three sequels, one TV movie, and one remake. Still terrifying even now, this is largely due to Hitchcock's potent murder set pieces. Bernard Hermann's legendary score adds much to the excitement and Anthony Perkins gives a great performance as the weird and troubled Norman Bates.



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'Korek na Korek Ka Diyan' debuts on GMA-7

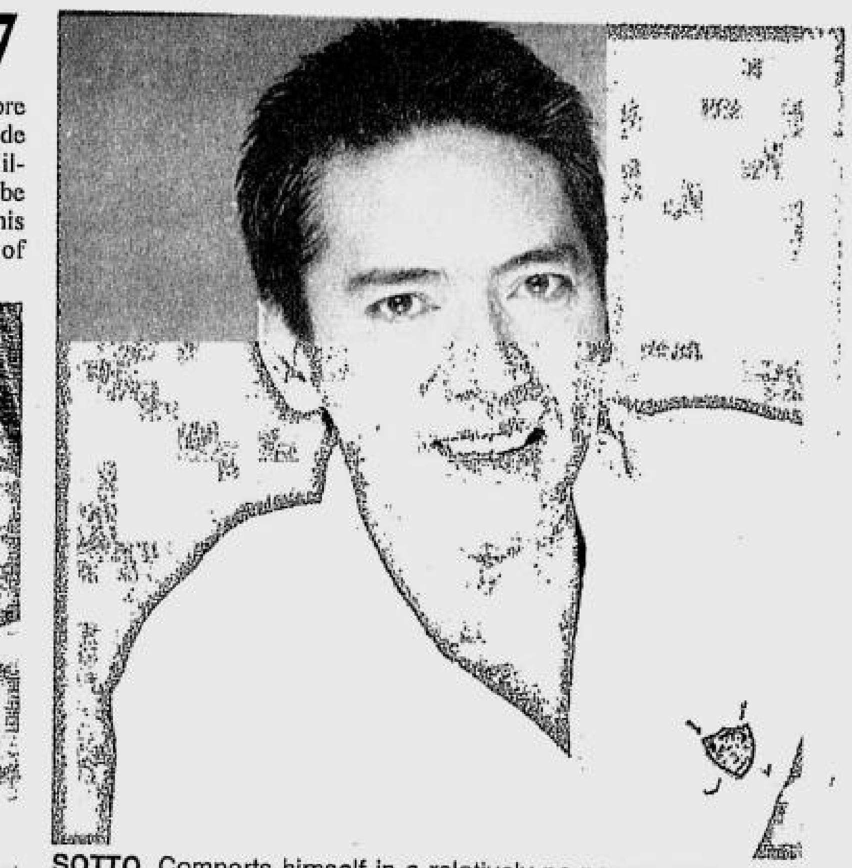
By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Monday, GMA-7 joined local TV's weeknight battle of game and quiz shows with "Korek na Korek Ka Diyan," a spin-off of the quiz portion in the noontime show, "Eat Bulaga." The new program is hosted by Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon, assuring it a measure of mass-viewer appeal.

Pleasantly surprised

At the same time, we were pleasantly surprised to see Sotto comporting himself in a relatively no-nonsense manner, as befits the man who asks the big-bucks questions on a game-quiz program. Pretty much gone were his usual *pa-kwela* and *porma*.

In fact, he was generally more self-possessed than Christopher de Leon on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," who of late appears to be adding even more curlicues to his already distracting repertoire of *porma* star turns.



SOTTO. Comports himself in a relatively no-nonsense manner.

Sotto's reinvention of his hosting style is all to the good because on game and quiz shows, the quizmaster's authority, credibility and perceived competence are essential.

"Korek na Korek" is different from other weeknight game or quiz shows precisely because of its tie-up with its "mother" noontime show. The day's winning contestant on "Eat Bulaga" is then sent to compete for bigger stakes on the evening edition.

Challenge

But first, he must fight off the challenge of the winner of an elimination round involving 10 contestants chosen from hundreds of callers. Last Monday, the "Eat Bulaga" winner *was* able to defeat her challenger, and went on to answer increasingly difficult questions in the hope of winning a million pesos.

We noticed that the questions were relatively easy, and that a contestant needed to answer only seven questions correctly in order to cop the top cash prize of P1 M, as opposed to some 15 questions on another game show.

When in doubt, the contestant could seek the counsel fo a "Department of Help," which was made up last Monday by Gloria Diaz, Jay Sonza and Gelli de Bellen. But their assistance turned out to be not all that helpful because they gave three different answers to a particular question.

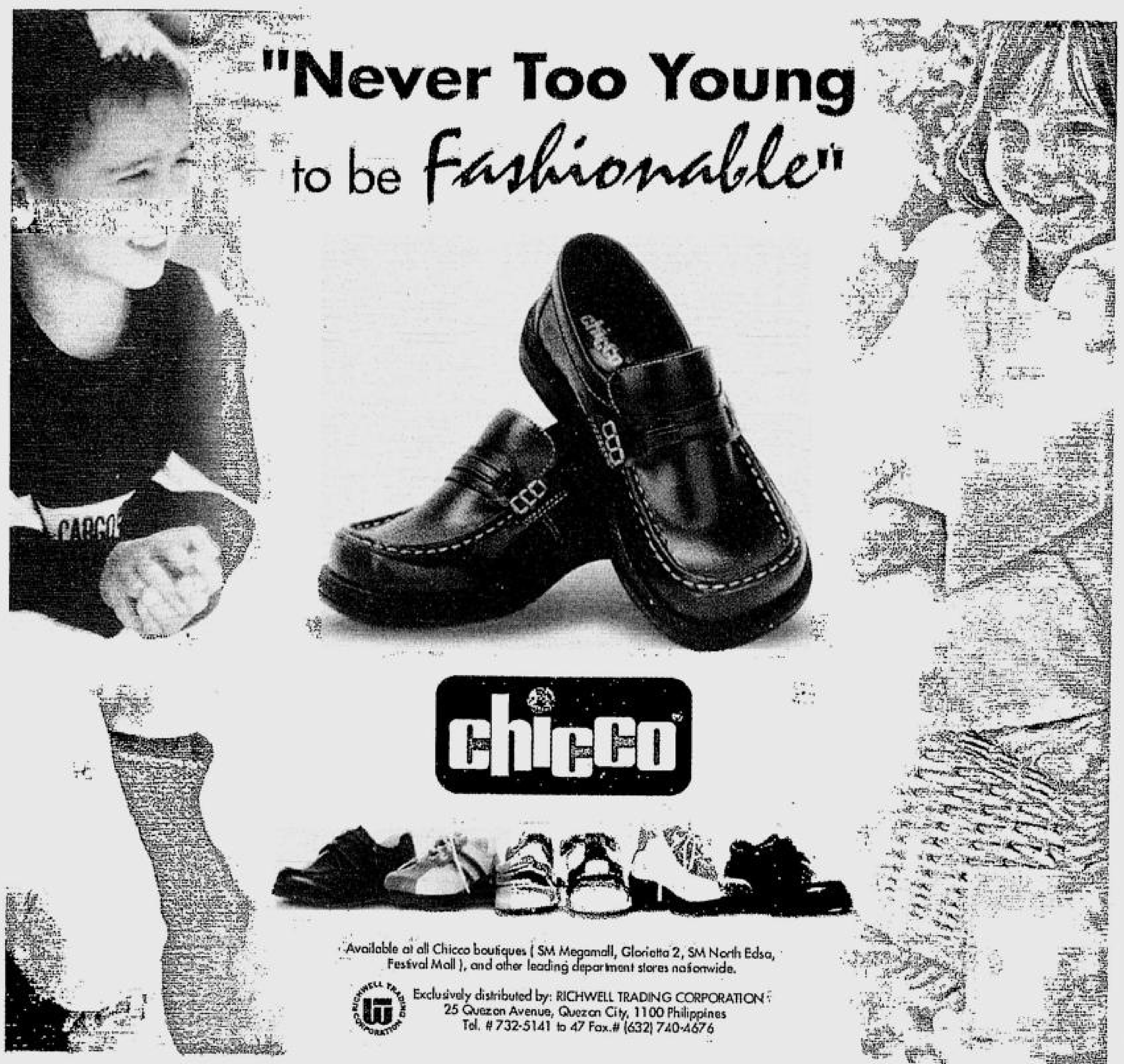
If the idea of having a "DOH" is to help the contestant come up with the right answer, that didn't come to pass; if it was to add some "comical" confusion, it did.

Panel

Also, the "DOH" panel shouldn't be composed of celebrities all the time. Contestants would be more appreciative of panels occasionally made up of "walking encyclopedias" rather than show biz luminaries, don't you think?

Still, the show fared relatively well on its first telecast—and on the following day, which saw the "*buena mano*" contestant winning hundreds of thousands of pesos before a wrong answer cut back her winnings to P100,000, plus a showcase.

The bonus showcases on the program sweeten the pot for the contestant, who retains them even after losing an advanced round.



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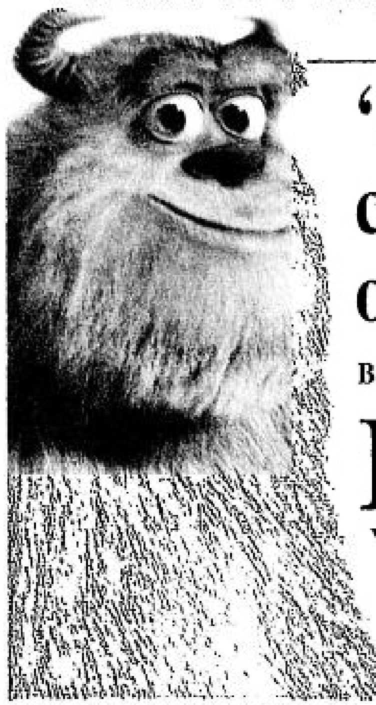

ONE of the "scary" monsters.

'Monsters Inc.' mashes competition with record opening in North America

By Erica Werner

LOS ANGELES—"Monsters Inc." scared away the weekend competition.

Monster factory

The film about a monster factory that collects kids' screams recorded the best North American debut ever for an animated film and the sixth-best opening of all time, bringing in $63.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Monsters Inc.," the latest film from the Disney/Pixar partnership that produced the "Toy Story" movies and "A Bug's Life," far outdistanced those earlier hits.

The previous top opening for an animated film was the $57.4 million recorded by 1999's "Toy

MONSTERS/ p.E2

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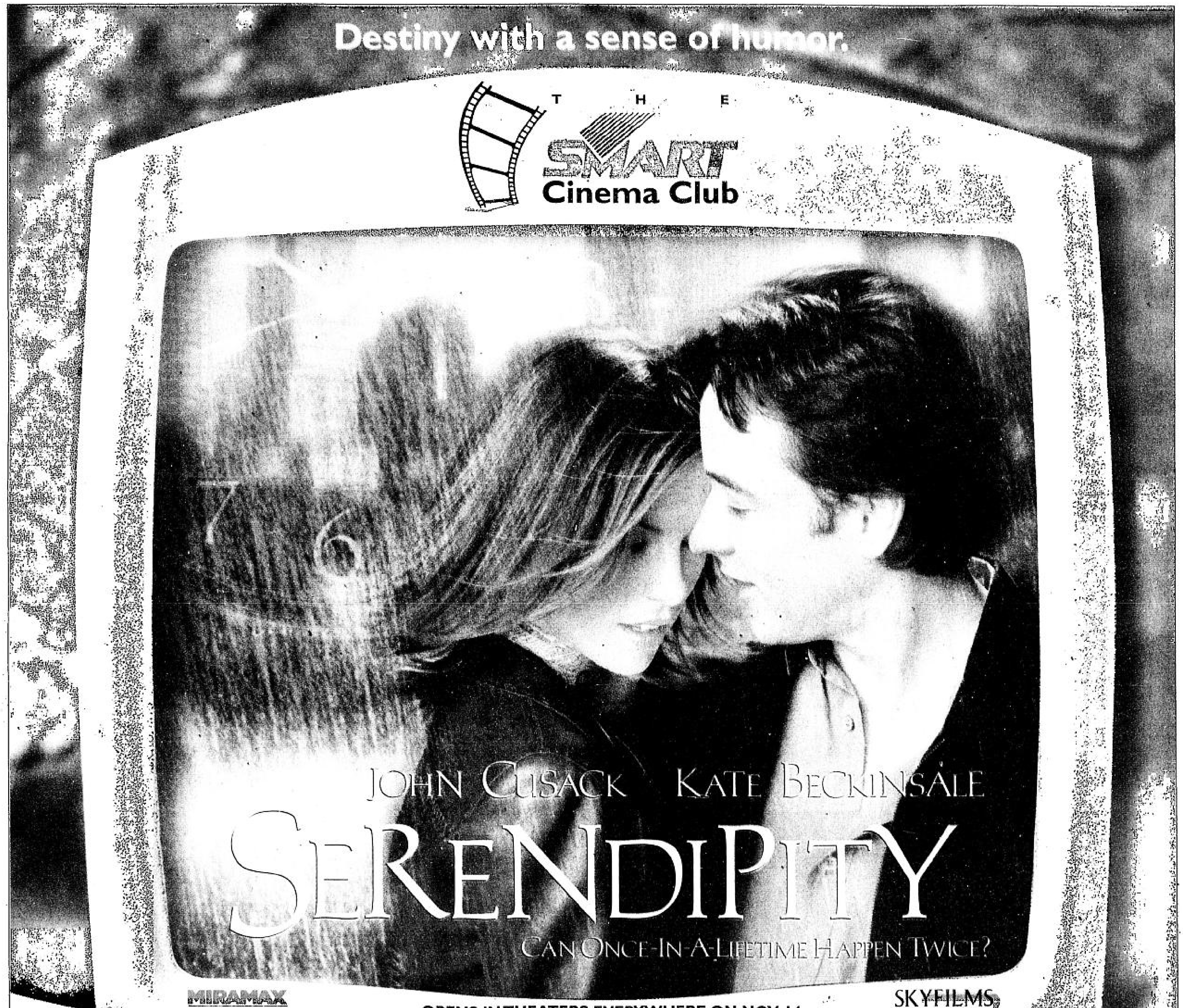

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Find out if he or she is the right person for you. Key in **PLAY SD**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	This test tells you if you're soul mates or not. Key in **PLAY SD2**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	Falling in love with a pal? Find out if there's something between the two of you. Key in **PLAY SD3**. To answer the questions, press **REPLY** and key in the no. <1,2,3, or 4> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.	Get a regular dose of quiz questions with this game. Simply key in **CT ON**. To answer the questions, key in **CT** and the letter <A,B,C, or D> corresponding to your choice. Press SEND.

All text messages will be charged P2.50 each. Logos, graphics, picture messages and screen savers are P12.00 each.

Note: If you're playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you start a test or game.

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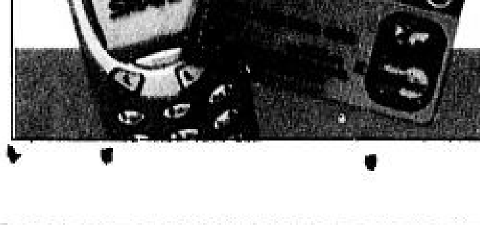

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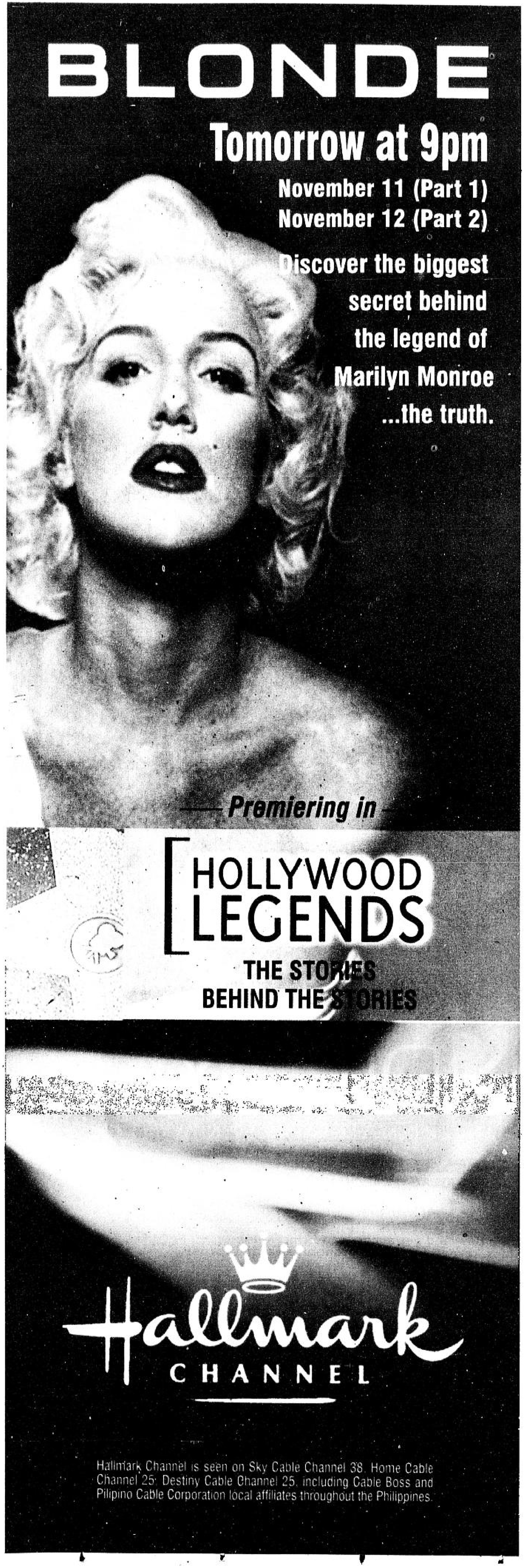
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NIDA plays a nun in her last movie, "Ano Bang Meron Ka" which opens next week.

Nida Blanca's violent death devastates colleagues, fans

By Nestor U. Torre

YOUNGER viewers may wonder why the entire Filipino film industry and many mature moviegoers are grieving with particular pain over the recent killing of veteran TV-movie star Nida Blanca

Scintillating

That's because young moviegoers missed seeing her bubbly and scintillating portrayals in the '50s, '60s and '70s, when she lit up the silver screen with her vitality, incandescent wit and musical-comedy verve. They also didn't catch her more serious characterization which demonstrates her vitality as a performer.

But Nida's screem portrayals are only some of the reasons why her colleagues in the movie industry feel so devastated. Aside from being a topnotch and versatile performer for five long and memorable decades, Nida was one of the industry's driving forces when it came to setting standards and fighting for reforms.

She gave unstintingly of herself not just as a movie luminary, but also behind the scenes, where a person's involvement and commitment are more tellingly showcased because they're often unrecognized and unrewarded.

Dubious awards

Our first association with Nida was telling in this regard. Decades ago, we were both members of an awards-giving body whose decisions were deemed suspect. True enough, one year, the body gave out some dubious awards, and we joined other members who resigned from the group as a show of protest. Nida was one of us.

We were pilloried for our action, but we held our ground and proved our point. Nida had a tougher time of it because she was the most visible member who resigned, but she too stuck to her convictions. In time, the group was discredited, and more reputable awards bodies were initiated.

Feisty

That first association with Nida impressed us. Clearly, she was much more than just a movie star. She was a feisty woman who fought for what she believed was right, whatever the repercussions to her relationships in the industry.

After that, we worked with Nida in other industry involvements, like the screenings to decide on deserving nominees for the annual awards of the Film Academy of the Philippines. Again, Nida proved to be a tireless worker and evaluator who chose her nominees on merit, and not because they were her friends.

Even better, we got to know Nida as a person. She regaled us with hush-hush stories about her life and career, swearing us to secrecy so she could share really telling moments and details.

Instructive

We urged her to go public about at least some of the less controversial and incriminating details of her revelations, because they were so incisive and instructive. But she said she wasn't ready to do that, not just yet. In due time, perhaps?

Well, time has tragically run out for Nida, and we're all the poorer for it. Let's show our love for her by making sure that she won't be forgotten, and that her contributions, both as artist and person, will continue to be appreciated.

For starters, our industry leaders should hold a retrospective of Nida's best screen portrayals. On TV movie channels, a similar tribute can be mounted.

A book on Nida should also be published, replete with great stills from her starrers, which remain lively and vivid to this day.

Thanks, Nida, for sharing so much of yourself with us—and for all those wonderful movie memories.

May justice be yours as swiftly as possible. As for our love and gratitude, you already have that—for keeps!

'Monsters Inc.' . . .

(From page E1)

Story 2," which also held the previous record for best November opening.

"There's something about the Pixar/Disney partnership whereby the creative forces behind these films really know what kids want to see," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations, which tracks the box office. "Everything that they do with these films seems to exactly capture what kids are looking for."

Second place

Opening in second place over the Friday to Sunday weekend was "The One," Jet Li's latest action film. The film brought in $20 million, the strongest opening to date for a film starring Li. Unlike his earlier "Romeo Must Die" and "Kiss of the Dragon," the film was rated PG-13, not R.

"Domestic Disturbance," a thriller starring John Travolta, debuted in third place, bringing in $14.5 million.

The openings rang in the holiday movie season in decisive fashion. Receipts for the top 12 movies were up nearly 90 percent over last weekend, and 44 percent over the same weekend last year.

"In light of the tragedy of Sept. 11, the box office has just been incredible. People want an escape," Dergarabedian said. "We're on record pace for the year."

"Monsters" is the sort of movie Disney typically would release right around Thanksgiving, but the studio moved it to early November hoping to cash in before the "Harry Potter" juggernaut hits the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Voices

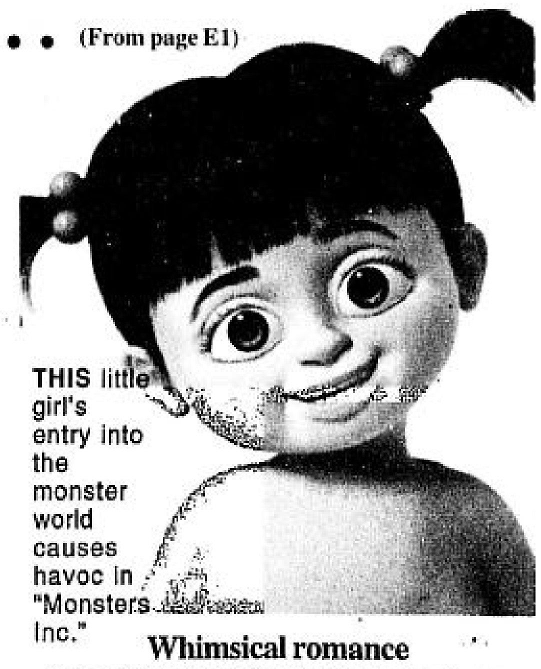
The movie features the voices of John Goodman as the gorilla-like Sully and Billy Crystal as his pal Mike Wazowski, an eyeball with arms and legs. Havoc ensues when Goodman's character accidentally lets a little girl wander through her closet into the monster world, where human children are considered toxic.

Disney officials were ecstatic Sunday at the film's success.

"It's just fabulous," said Disney distribution chief Chuck Viane. "We knew it was good, but breaking records—you very seldom expect that."

The take for "Monsters, Inc." easily outdistanced the $42.4 million DreamWorks' animated "Shrek" brought in on its opening weekend in May. But "Shrek" remained strong for weeks, and at $267 million is the year's highest-grossing movie so far.

Two films did very well opening in limited release.


THIS little girl's entry into the monster world causes havoc in "Monsters Inc."

Whimsical romance

The whimsical French-language romance "Amelie," a big hit at Cannes, stars Audrey Tautou as a quirky woman who sets out to put some meaning and love into the lives of those around her. It was on only three screens—two in New York and one in Los Angeles—and took in a total of $140,000, an outstanding $46,667 per screen average.

Opening on 38 screens, the Coen brothers' latest film, "The Man Who Wasn't There," brought in $673,300 over the weekend for a $17,718 per screen average.

Jack Foley, president of distribution for USA Films, said the studio is being cautious about bringing out the black-and-white film starring Billy Bob Thornton and Frances McDormand. It's in 17 markets now and will expand to about 30 next weekend, he said.

Believers

"We're letting those who believe spread the word, and there are a lot of believers," Foley said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.:

1. "Monsters Inc.," $63.5 million.
2. "The One," $20 million.
3. "Domestic Disturbance," $14.5 million.
4. "K-Pax," $10.7 million.
5. "Thirteen Ghosts," $8 million.
6. "Riding in Cars with Boys," $4.5 million.
7. "From Hell," $3.7 million.
8. "Training Day," $3.2 million.
9. "Bandits," $3 million.
10. "Serendipity," $2.5 million.

AP

SWITCHING CHANNELS

Boy Abunda's 'Most Interesting Personalities' airs tomorrow

By Edmund L. Sicam

BOY Abunda is the first to admit that his first primetime network special "2001: Most Interesting Personalities with Boy Abunda," airing tomorrow at 9:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN was inspired by Barbara Walters' personality profiles. This is the first time a local network has aired a talk show special that focuses on 11 personalities.

Again, Boy will not deny that many of the names chosen for the show have something to do with ABS-CBN—Martin Nievera, Ernie Baron, Senator Francis Pangilinan and Piolo Pascual. He says there was a lot of discussion on whether to include Piolo, but after he interviewed the actor, he understood why Piolo was on the list.

The other celebrities in the show are Col. Victor Corpuz, Tessa Prieto-Valdez, ad executive Emily Abrera, Ayen Munji-Laurel, Senator Ralph Recto, Gary Valenciano and Rio Diaz-Cojuangco.

When asked at the presscon for the show who he thought was the most interesting personality in the group, he paused for a long time and we thought he would evade the question by naming everyone. Instead, he cited Corpus because, of all of them, he was the one "least suited" for TV but he managed to impress Boy with his insights and his humanity.

Boy is one person who knows the value of being frank and honest at presscons. As a publicist, he knows that the press admires sincerity and openness.

That's probably why Boy has managed to make a mark on his ANC show, "Conversations." He is able to bring out facets of his guest's personality that one seldom sees on TV. Despite his image as a publicist and talent manager, Boy has been able to carve out his own niche. Certainly, he is no political pundit like the late Louie Beltran but Boy has his own field of expertise, something between frivolous talk and intellectual discussions.

When he agreed to do the special, he had two conditions about his subjects: there would be no advance questions submitted to them and no one could tell him to skip certain questions. Each session lasted as much as an hour or an hour-and-a-half, so he was able to get the best sound bytes from each guest. He plans to feature the outtakes in his weekly talk show.

Miss Asia Pacific chosen tonight

Miss Asia Pacific Quest holds its Grand Coronation Night at the NBC Tent at 9 p.m. with GMA 7 as official host. The winner will get $ 10,000.

The Philippines will be represented by the reigning Mutya ng Pilipinas, Darlene Carbungco.

The pageant will be hosted by Hans Montenegro and Dingdong Dantes with Vicky Morales as anchor-host. Special performers are Gary V and Hotlegs.

Lani Misalucha's sister joins soap

Right now, Karlyn Bayot is better known as the sister of Lani Misalucha, but that may soon change as ABS-CBN's Talent Center has signed her up as one of its artists. She started out as a commercial model (she considers Sunsilk and Globe as some of her favorites) but she trained as a violinist.

In their very musical family, her father wanted her to learn to play the piano at the age of seven but she countered, as a joke, that she wold rather play the violin. Before she knew it, her dad had bought her a violin and she eventually learned to love to play the musical instrument. She then joined the Nayong Pilipino orchestra for several years.

Karlyn is spreading her wings to try other things. She recently joined the cast of "Ang Munting Paraiso" as the love interest of Jericho Rosales. She also plans to sing in some of the network's variety shows.

In person, Karlyn is softspoken and has not acquired the ways of a show biz personality. It must run in the family. Lani is already a big name in the business but has retained her simple ways. We expect Karlyn to be like her sister.

Angelika de la Cruz's new nemesis

Angelika dela Cruz is wondering why there's a big fuss over the departure of Sunshine Dizon from the GMA's telenovela "Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin," which airs weekdays at 8 p.m. Sunshine quit the series because she felt her character was becoming too evil.

Knowing how audiences react to *contravidas*, Sunshine may have felt it was bad for her image. Some quarters are saying there was a spat between the two stars of the soap.

Management has belied such rumors saying Sunshine will be appearing in other shows of the network. Angelika admits there was some minor irritation with Sunshine but this was settled a long time ago.

A new villain has entered the story. LJ Moreno now plays Chanda Romero's daughter, who will make life more miserable for Angelika on the show.

Meanwhile, production manager Wilma Galvante appeared at her presscon to sing praises for Angelika, saying the actress was one of the network's valued talents. Several projects have been lined up for her because of her big following.

Angelika is now shooting a movie with Robin Padilla for Viva Films, the start of her foray into the motion picture business.

Questions for "Band of Brothers" Episode 5:

1. Name the dog that was featured in this episode: a. Rover b. Happy c. Trigger
2. Name Winters' orderly: a. Nixon b. Silinsky c. Dukeman
3. Where did Winters go during his 48-hour weekend pass? a. Paris b. London c. Geneva

Send entries to: "Switching Channels Band of Brothers Contest," P.O. Box 512 Greenhills Post Office, San Juan Metro Manila.

Entries must be postmarked on or before Nov. 24. Winners will be announced Dec. 1.

Boy is one person who knows the value of frankness and sincerity at presscons

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FOR THE BENEFIT OF BANTAYOG NG MGA BAYANI FOUNDATION

At only 27, Christian Bale has already starred in 22 films

By Louise Gannon

CHRISTIAN Bale is sitting in his trailer on a film set in Dublin eating his lunch. He is businesslike and polite as we say our hellos. Tall, dark and gorgeous in a masculine, chiseled, rather aloof kind of way, I can immediately see why Reese Witherspoon, who starred alongside him in "American Psycho," nicknamed him "Hunk Head" as soon as she set eyes on him.

Thrilled

I'm thrilled at the chance to meet him—there can't be many women who wouldn't be—but the prospect of interviewing him is, quite frankly, terrifying. I have been warned, you see, that Christian hates interviews and *never* talks about his personal life.

But luck is on my side. Suddenly there's one of those embarrassing moments that weirdly unites people: Christian chokes on his apple. It's strange, but it breaks the ice, and two minutes later, Christian and I are getting along famously.

He tells me about a lighter he had that played a tune. He showed it to a television journalist during an interview and set his hair on fire trying to play it. Christian ran off with his head in flames.

"I know it's an actor's job to make a fool of himself," he says, "but I gave up smoking after that."

Lead role

At only 27, Christian has starred in a total of 22 movies; his career began at age of 12 when he won the lead role in Steven Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun." You'll probably recognize him more from last year's controversial "American Psycho," in which he played the gruesome serial killer. He also starred with Ewan McGregor in the glam-rock film "Velvet Goldmine."

BALE. Drawn to dark characters.

But it will be this year's epic love story "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" that will catapult Christian to superstar status. Again Christian plays a flawed, complex character—the earthly Greek, Mandras, who becomes desensitized by the war and turns into a brutal animal.

The scene in which he attempts to rape his fiancee, played by Penelope Cruz, is genuinely shocking, but it's a scene Christian relished playing. "Those sorts of scenes are difficult, but it gives you a chance to really act and expose parts of a character that people don't like to see. I'm drawn to the darker characters because I find them more interesting."

In person, Christian is serious and rather intense, but in a strangely endearing way. It's true that in the past he hasn't wanted to speak about his personal life, but only because he has so much to say about his work. He is so fiercely private that even Nicolas Cage, his co-star in "Corelli," had no idea he was British—he was born in Wales and brought up in Bournemouth—until two months into production.

Superb seafood chowder

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, CANADA—Vancouver has many beautiful spots like thick forests, waterfalls, beaches, lakes and ski resorts. At times, however, the weather doesn't cooperate. Recently, I experienced one of those days—but this one was different.

Drizzling

Clouds covered the blue sky and it was drizzling. It was a dark and chilly day. Everything looked gray. As you spoke, smoke preceded your breath. It was *that* cold.

I suggested we walk along the port at Steveston (a fishing port in the outskirts of Vancouver). There, fishing boats come on weekends to display and sell their catch, which ranges from shrimps, sharks and crabs, to all varieties of salmon and other kinds of fish. Since it wasn't exactly a pleasant day to stroll and lunch was approaching, we walked into one of the restaurants at the port to have some piping-hot clam chowder and some fish and chips.

I was with Tessa and my in-laws, architect Toti and Maribel. We sat at a table that had a view of the port with only a few boats docked. It was still drizzling and chilly outside. "What a perfect meal," I thought. But our excitement turned to frustration when we found out they didn't serve clam chowder. We were all cold, starving and fraustrated. So, we settled for seafood chowder, instead.

It arrived piping hot in a thick cream-colored bowl. It was reddish and had thin white lines criscrossed over the soup. I blew on it and took a sip. This was the best-tasting chowder I have eaten in my entire life. It was simply superb!

The fine white lines were alioli (garlic mayo). The thick and rich soup had chunks of tomato and a variety of herbs. I tasted fresh dill and many others. In this hot treasure were some chopped shrimps, clams, mussels, flaked fish, tender potato cubes, tomatoes and cream.

You could taste the flavor of each seafood. With some crusty french bread and butter, it was perfect for the chilly, dark and rainy day.

Discovery

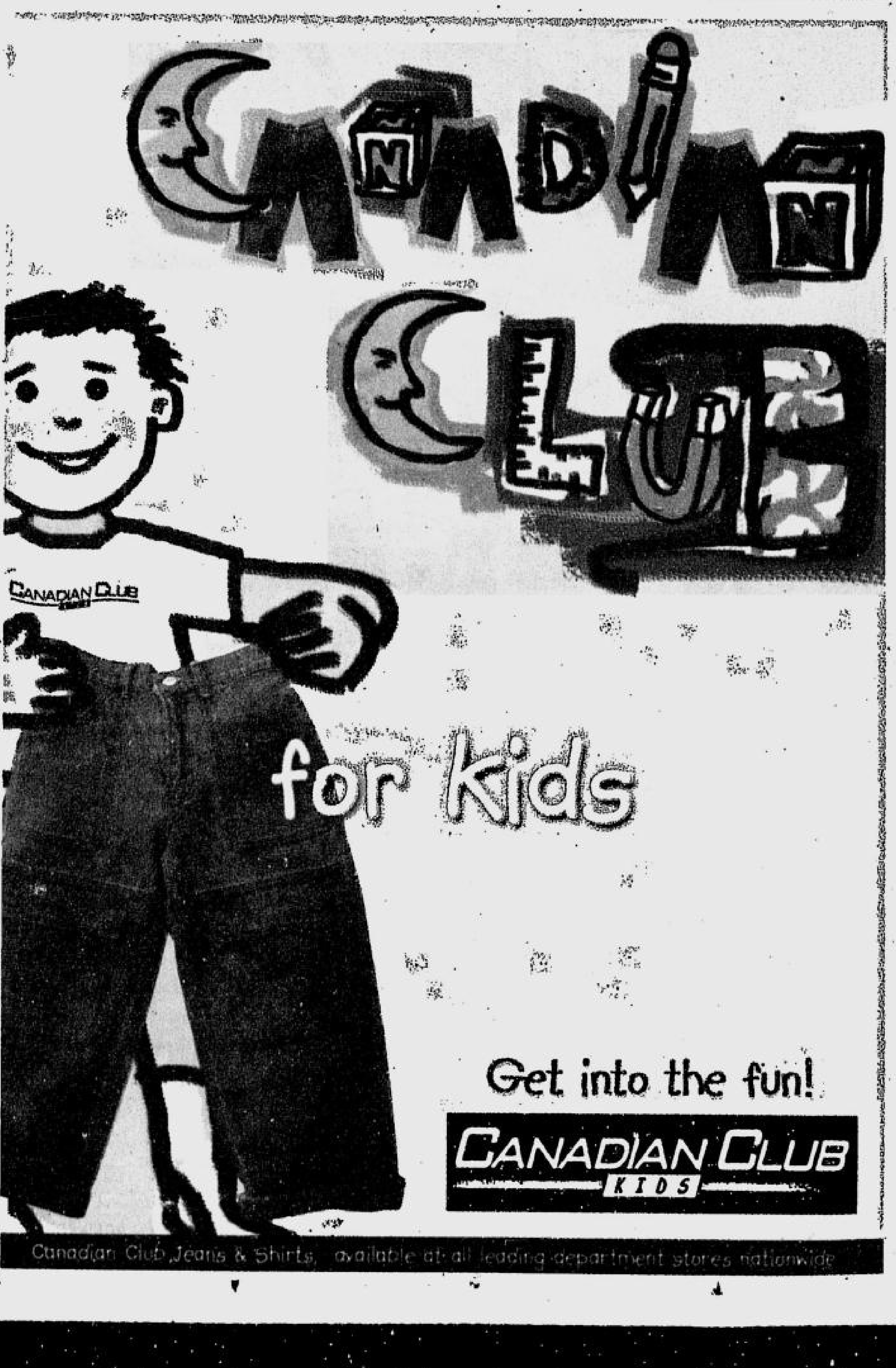
It was a cross between the New England clam chowder and the French bouillabaisse. The fish and chips was good but was overshadowed by this discovery. I dream of learning how to make this winner someday.

We kept dreaming about that meal. In fact, as soon as it rained, we again headed for "The Shady Island," the resaturant that serves it. It was simply superb!

When it rains here, the first thing that comes to mind is that seafood chowder at Steveston Wharf. I hope I can repeat the experience sometime soon!

Happy eating!

sandydaza@hotmail.com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ASIN in performance during its ongoing Mindanao tour.

Asin goes on the musical road to peace

By Nonie Sarmiento

IF there's one image that can restore a cynic's faith in Pinoy pop music, this is probably it—Lolita Carbon, Pendong Aban Jr. and the rest of the entourage are having a quick, no-frills late afternoon meal of *tuyo* and *sardinas* with their bare hands.

Folk rock legends Asin have worked up an appetite, having just played a two-set gig in Tulugan, a small, sleepy village nestled near the foot of Mt. Kitanglad, the country's second highest mountain and home to the Talaandig tribe of Bukidnon.

Why they're somewhere in the heart of Mindanao and not in the NGO-flavored haunts of Metro Manila just as they've released their newest album in years may puzzle some, but it does seem to be the logical way to go.

Because that's the most obvious thing here: between Mindanao and Asin is an enduring love affair. And right now, Asin is wooing its muse, the group's serenades echoing throughout the corners of this island in the form of a tour.

"Pagmamahal, Pagbabago, Pagpapatuloy . . . Pangkatawhay" is a peace caravan to promote the band's recent record "Pag-ibig, Pagbabago, Pagpapatuloy," as well as to spread the message of peace and harmony in the often-volatile environment of Mindanao.

Marrio Mapanao, the tour organizer, says "*tawhay*" basically translates to "calm" and "tranquil" and it can also mean "wholeness" or "fullness of life."

The tour was organized by *Sayap Kulturanhong* Advocacies, an NGO based in Cotabato, and is sponsored by Smart Communications, Air Philippines and the band's record label, Vicor Music. After Bukidnon, Asin pushed on to Midsayap, Cotabato on Oct. 19, Banaybanay, Davao Oriental on Oct. 22, Davao City on Oct. 25 and Butuan City on Oct. 27. The second phase of their Smart-sponsored tour will resume after a short break.

Easiest tour

Asin is known for penning enduring folk anthems and also for being controversial. This reunion has been the third since they came out with their first album in 1978. After a brief parting of ways, which saw Carbon forming her own band, Asin came back in 1983 with "Himig ng Lahi."

By 1989, the band dissolved once more, only to meet up as members of the powerhouse group Lokal Brown. By 1991 and after the tragic death of main songwriter Saro Bañares, the other members had finally decided to close the book.

Until now, that is. As the story goes, Carbon and Aban Jr., who had by that time formed the ethnic-rock band Grupong Pendong, met up sometime last year and decided to give it one more go. Months later, here they are, eating dried fish.

"*Mas maigi-igi na nga yung* tour *namin ngayon,*" shares Carbon. She remembers Asin's first tour during the early '80s when they had to bring their own sound system and road people. "*Lahat, sariling pawis* unlike *ngayon, nandyan na tumutulong yung* Smart and the other companies. *Medyo hindi na kami nahihirapan.*"

Still, it's too early to tell—their Bukidnon gig, which coincided with the Talaandig Day celebrations, has only been their third. The band kicked off their tour in Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur, and moved on to Upi in Maguindanao last Oct. 7.

The latter gig in particular had been a very encouraging one for the band, which, aside from the two remaining members, is composed of bassist Onie Badiang (of Bagong Lumad and Yano), guitarist Lito Crisostomo (of Grupong Pendong) and multi-sessionist drummer Howie Villareal.

'Dangerous' gig

The band relates with a laugh that when the local newspapers came out with a feature on them, the headlines screamed that Upi was the most dangerous place in Mindanao. It contrasted perfectly with what the tour was all about.

"*Ito yung sinasabi nilang* most dangerous place *kasi halo yung kultura,*" says Aban Jr. "*May* Muslim, *may Kristiyano, may mga lumad na* Tiduray..." (They said it was the most dangerous place because of the mix of cultures. Muslims, Christians, the Teduray tribes...")

Vindication

It was vindication of sorts when around 10,000 people came to see them—a massive crowd unheard of in a place that has been marred by armed conflict. Like a local version of Woodstock, people—students, NGO workers, church workers, farmers and workers—had hiked and hitchhiked to the four-hectare St. Francis High School plaza.

The concert was the culminating activity of the centennial celebrations of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. "*Biyaheng langit talaga,*" beams Lolita. ("It was really a trip to heaven.")

The road to Tulugan in Bgy. Songco, Lantapan, Bukidnon, however, was more like hell. They had to cross mountain ranges, where in some places, even buses weren't able to pass. In fact, they share, they were more apprehensive about getting stuck in the middle of nowhere rather than about encountering military or MILF checkpoints.

Their friends back in Manila were the one's worrying, texting them regularly through Smart cell phones. The band just shrug off these anxieties. "*Ako hindi talaga ako pinanganak sa* Mindanao *pero mas* home *ko pa ito, e,*" says Carbon. "*Mas* dangerous *ang buhay sa Maynila,*" adds Aban Jr.

Issue-oriented

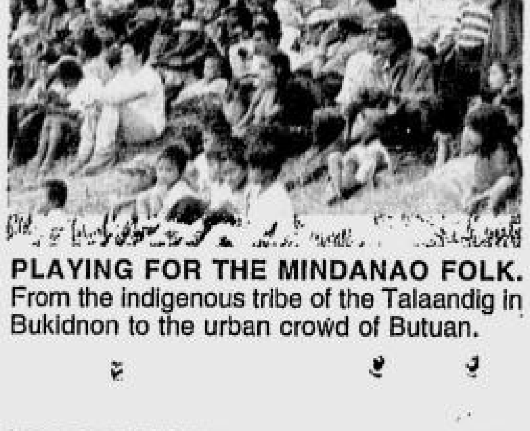
When pressed to compare their audiences in Manila and in Mindanao, Aban Jr. says there really isn't much of a difference. "*Yung* crowd *sa* Manila *yung mga intelektwal na nakakaintinding problema ng* Mindanao, *yung problema ng lupa,* human rights... *Swak na swak talaga ang mga kanta ng Asin diyan.*" ("The Manila crowd is composed of intellectuals who understand the problems of Mindanao, problems concerning land and human rights . . . The songs of Asin really fit to a T.")

The added dimensions now that they're playing in Mindanao is that the intellectuals have been replaced by the very people who have been the inspiration for their songs, from classics like "Masdan Mo ang Kapaligiran," "Balita" and "Ang Bayan Kong Sinilangan" to cuts from their new album like "Ang Mahalaga" and "Sa Malayong Silangan," a song recorded by the late Bañares, which they've re-recorded.

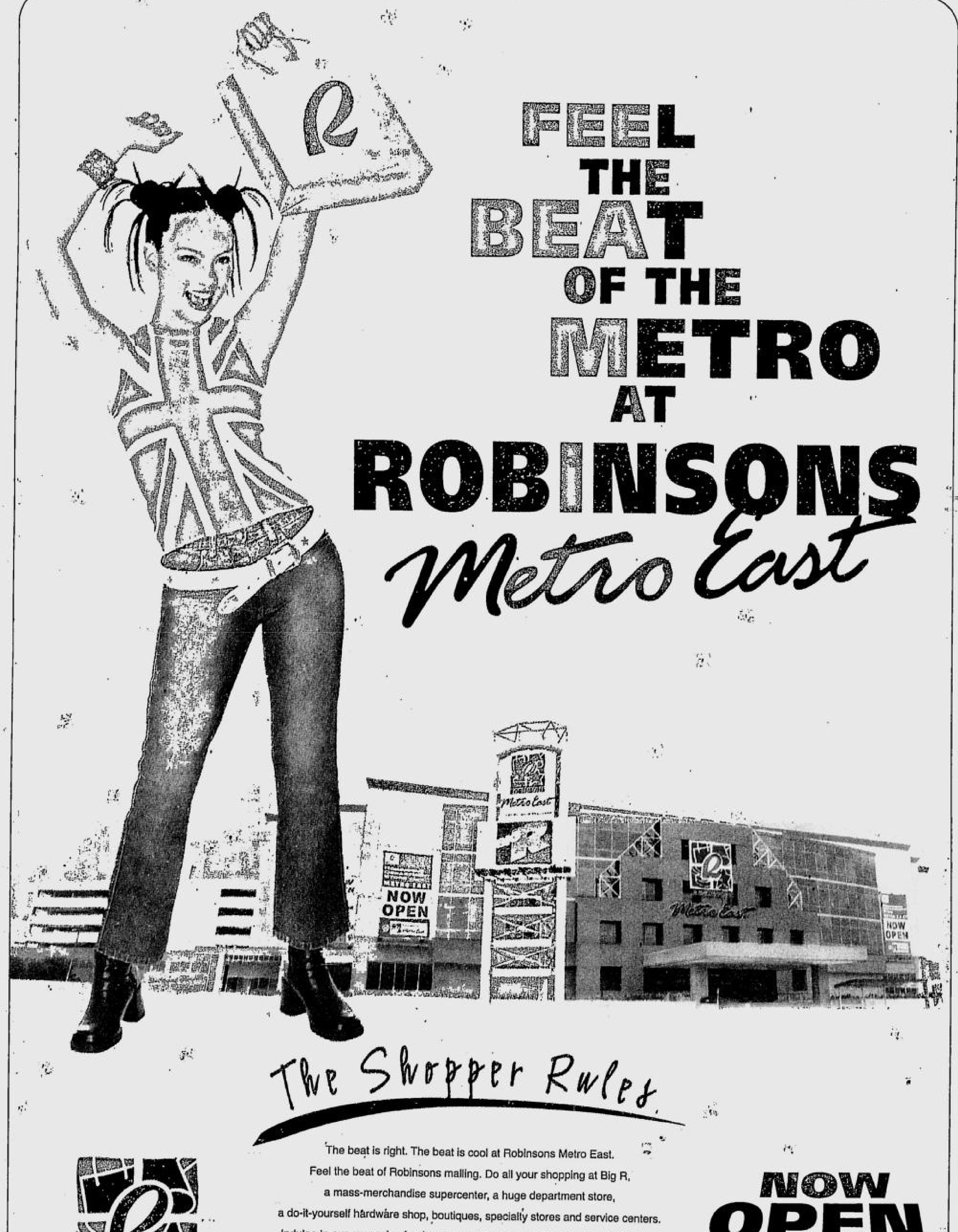
If, in Metro Manila, the songs of Asin are wel

ASIN/p.E5

THE ASIN. (From left) Onie Badiang, Lito Crisostomo, Howie Villareal (seated), Marrio Mapanao of Sayap Kulturahong Advocacies, Lolita Carbon, Pendong Aban and Girlie Bernardino, road tour liaison.



PLAYING FOR THE MINDANAO FOLK. From the indigenous tribe of the Talaandig in Bukidnon to the urban crowd of Butuan.



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ROBINSONS GALLERIA ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA, NOVALICHES, IMUS, CEBU, BACOLOD ROBINSONS METRO EAST ROBINSONS TOWN MALL LOS BAÑOS

Asin . . . (From page E4)

comed for their nostalgic and folk elements, in Mindanao, these are pulsing with the social issues of the present.

Add to the various causes of Asin issues concerning indigenous people, which is why this particular gig within the ancestral domain of the Talaandig is an important one for the band. Aban Jr. casually mentions a lesser-known song of theirs, "Ludima," which is about an indigenous person and the problems of his tribe.

"It sounds political *pero ang mga* ancestral domain, *sa kanila talaga dapat.*" ("It sounds political but ancestral domains should really be theirs.")

Adopted members

Aban knows what he's talking about because he and his wife Chat are adopted members of the Talaandig, having been welcomed into the fold after they did some research on the tribe's dances in 1996. During that time, the Talaandig were celebrating after winning a case against a pharmaceutical company that had entered their territories without permission.

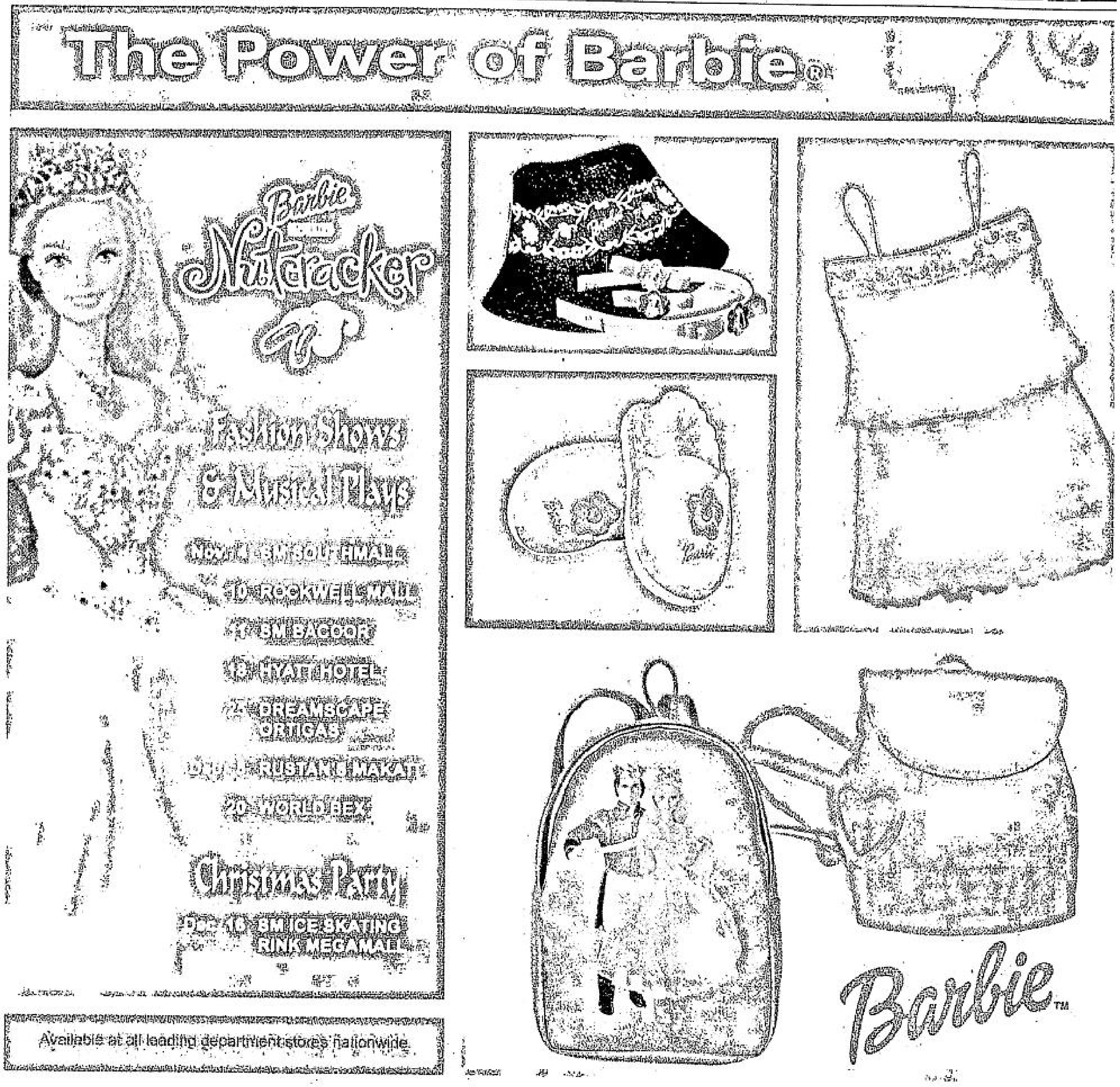
When asked if the varying audiences has affected their performances, Aban Jr. remarks: "*Hindi naman namin* aim *talaga yung 'a, maraming tao, nagwa*-wild, *naglulundagan! Sa amin, masaya na kami kahit kokonti, basta tumagos.*" ("It's not our aim to be playing before a big crowd going wild. For us, it's fulfilling enough to play for a small crowd as long as we get the message across.")

Whether it's playing for a mixed urban crowd of 10,000 or for a tribe of a hundred families, these folk heroes know that, in the end, they—the band and the audience—are there because of the songs.

"*Mas gusto namin yung ganoon.* The song remains the . . . song," Carbon quips.

"*Basta tandaan natin, ang* Asin, *hindi yan nakalutang,*" adds Aban Jr. "*Ang* Asin, *nakapaa na sumasayad sa lupa.*" ("We should remember, Asin has its feet set firmly on the ground.") And, in this particular instance, eating sardines with the salt of the earth.

LOLITA looking at peace with some Talaandig children.



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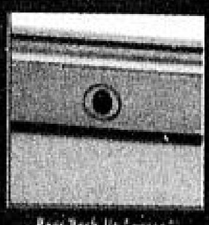

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Life Together.

How 'American Adobo' was shot in the States

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

AFTER "Tanging Yaman," film director Laurice Guillen is showing her next film, "American Adobo," on Nov. 18. The new movie bids fair to become one of the best films of the year, and to point the way for other filmmakers and producers who want to penetrate the world market.

Co-production

That's because "American Adobo" was shot in the States (in New York City), and is a co-production of Filipino companies (Unitel Films and ABS-CBN) and some Fil-American and American film people, including the executive producer of the indie sleeper hit, "The Blair Witch Project."

With such multi-pronged backing, the film could do well not just locally but also in the United States. Indeed, early word from the US is good: when the movie was screened at the San Diego international filmfest last month, it got an enthusiastic reception from festival viewers.

But we're getting ahead of our story: The film started out as a project titled "Magic Adobo" some five years ago. Unitel producer Tony Gloria was contacted by Vincent Nebrida, a former Unitel copywriter who was working with a distribution company in the States.

RICKY Davao plays a key role in Guillen's latest film.

They got to talking and wondered why the Taiwanese, Iranians and other foreigners were making their mark in the US with their movies, but Filipino and Fil-American filmmakers were still being left in the lurch.

Script

They decided to do something about it, so Nebrida wrote a script about a group of Fil-American friends who would occasionally get together in New York City to eat *adobo*. The script's references to its cast of expatriates' past centered around the '70s.

Not quite so incidentally, one of Nebrida's friends was Kevin Fox, who executive-produced "The Blair Witch Project," and Fox was invited to join the "Magic Adobo" project because the unexpected mainstream success of "Blair Witch" had opened doors in Hollywood for him, which he could in turn open for the Fil-Am production.

After Fox signed on as executive producer of the "Adobo" project, a Filipino based in the States was tapped to direct the film, but he revised the script almost completely, so his involvement in the movie didn't prosper.

Cinematographer

That was when Guillen was asked if she would consent to coming in as director. After she agreed to megging the project, ABS-CBN came in as co-producer. In addition, a cinematographer who worked with Ang Lee joined the production team, but he later dropped out because he had to work on another movie. Lee Meily, the cinematographer of "Tanging Yaman," was chosen to replace him.

Guillen flew to the States for meetings on script revision and production matters. Then, on Sept. 17 last year, shooting began. The movie was shot like an American indie picture, with permits and a bigger budget than the usual Filipino production. Guillen and the other production people and actors who came from Manila lived in apartments in Greenwich Village in the Big Apple.

Auditions

Shooting the American indie way, they found themselves working really hard. Guillen auditioned the US-based members of the cast, and the auditions were open to all Screen Actors Guild members.

GUILLEN. Her multi-racial production team worked together harmoniously.

Prospective members of the production team were also interviewed. The final shooting crew came from different ethnic origins, and many of them had not worked with Filipinos before. That didn't turn out to be a problem, however, as Guillen's multi-racial team worked together harmoniously. In fact, says Guillen, her Italian assistant director was the best she'd ever had!

(To be concluded)

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Gary Valenciano feels most fulfilled as a father to his kids

BY MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

GARY V was hailed as the "Best Concert Act (male)" for "Radical" in the 14th Aliw Awards last September, but more than being a pop and recording artist and songwriter, he cherishes being a father to his kids, Paolo, 16, Gabriel, 13, and Kiana, 8. But he refuses to name a favorite child!

"My kids are different in their own way. Paolo can be a good director and actor. He played the lead in 'Florante at Laura' in school and I almost fainted. I couldn't believe he was acting onstage. Gabriel is outgoing and likes performing like me. And Kiana is our doll, our angel."

DE LAS ALAS. Birthday girl.

Gary encourages Paolo to take a few years of college here in Manila before he moves to New York University (NYU) to study. "Paolo wants to be independent. In the States, he sees his cousins who can do a lot of things at a young age. That's probably what he wants to do," Gary relates.

Gary is 20 years older than his son Paolo but he tries to grow and learn with his children. "I constantly have to learn how to adapt to what they do. Now that they're growing up, I want to spend more time with them. Parenting is very important to me.

"You don't just provide, you have to be there for your children. Gabriel is more inclined to follow my footsteps. As much as possible, I discourage my children from entering show business; but in Gabriel's case, I have to support him," Gary smiles.

Willa Ford prefers being sexy

Willa Ford has dance-pop tunes in her debut album, "Willa Was Here" because she believes that she's lucky to have a strong, soulful voice. "I'm about to break all the rules. I'm not a cheerleader, I'm not trying to pretend to be sweet and then come out and be bad. This is what I am," Willa grins.

True to her word, her self-assured lyrics on the tracks, "Prince Charming," and "I Wanna Be Bad" prove that she's adventurous and real. Her musical influences range from pop icon Madonna to R&B artists, BoyzIIMen, Jodeci, Mary J. Blige and jazz vocalist, Basia. But she singles out Radiohead as the inspiration for her eclectic music.

"I love Radiohead, they've influenced me in the weirdest way. The craziness of their music, and being so left-field and yet finding an audience is awesome! Being different and being accepted at the same time is so amazing," Willa enthuses.

She enjoys collaborating with other songwriters and producers because she learns techniques from them. "It was great collaborating with Tim Kelley, Travon Potts, Andy Marvel and Dj Skribble. Desmond Child was just incredible, he sat there on the piano and we went back and forth, writing and exchanging ideas.

"I've picked up a lot of things from Desmond. With some other people, we start with tracks. They just give me a beat and I start singing melodies. Then I think of something and start writing lyrics.

"Mostly, I come up with stories from my own life or stuff from my friends. Sometimes, I create a character that I want to be, like in 'I Wanna Be Bad.'"

The joys of being wholesome

Bombshell Joyce Jimenez has mellowed. She's more relaxed now, in terms of viewing life and dealing with people. No longer is she the sex kitten who tries to dissuade others from believing that what they see on-screen is the same persona that she has off-cam. In other words, she has reduced her defense mechanisms and has embraced life in a more natural and free-spirited manner.

"I've learned to be more accepting now, of myself and others," she volunteers, adding, "My world feels a lot lighter because I have learned to love myself more."

The joys of being wholesome have also spread to the films she's making. Now, lovemaking sequences are more incidentals than must-haves in her movies. Take her current film, 'Ano Bang Meron Ka?' where she plays a lifestyle writer who also dabbles as a party planner. The film, directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, is a light romance-drama that will surely tug at moviegoers' heartstrings.

Janno Gibbs takes the Big Dome challenge

Most artists fear having to stage a solo concert at the Araneta Coliseum primarily because of the venue's size. If recent memory serves, only Regine Velasquez and Lani Misalucha were able to fill the Big Dome to the rafters.

Tonight, it's Janno Gibbs's turn to take the challenge by way of his "Viva's & I" concert. The concert title is a spin-off of Janno's newly-released CD, 'Divas & I,' which we hear is doing well in music stores. This is good news for Janno, a gifted but underrated singer and concert artist.

For tonight's concert, Janno will have Pilita Corrales, Jaya and Lani Misalucha as his special guests. It will be interesting to see Pilita and Jaya onstage together, considering that their relationship was seriously damaged when Jaya dropped Pilita as her manager.

Ai-Ai, Chad know what truly matters

Today's birthday boy, Chad Borja, is a certified cancer survivor, and he feels grateful that he can continue to use his singing to make people happy. Chad has been a guest performer in many "inspirational" events, including medical conventions and missions.

Chad is slated to visit Taipei to entertain our OFWs, and is preparing a Christmas show with Jaya.

Meanwhile, comedienne-host Ai-Ai de las Alas turns a year older tomorrow and unlike her past birthdays, she has opted not to mount her usual birthday concert. Instead, she will spend the entire day with her three bundles of joy: Sancho Vito, Shaun Nicolo and Sophia Andrea.

"*Kaya ako nagtratrabaho ng ganito,* is for my children. They are my reasons, because they are my happiness," she says. Ai-Ai is busy as a bee, specially on television, where she is a mainstay on "Whattamen," "Arriba, Arriba!," "Magandang Tanghali Bayan," and "Sing-Galing!"

Her big concert is scheduled Dec. 1, and it will be called "Big Time Na Me: Araneta Na Kasi!"

FORD. Strong soulful voice.

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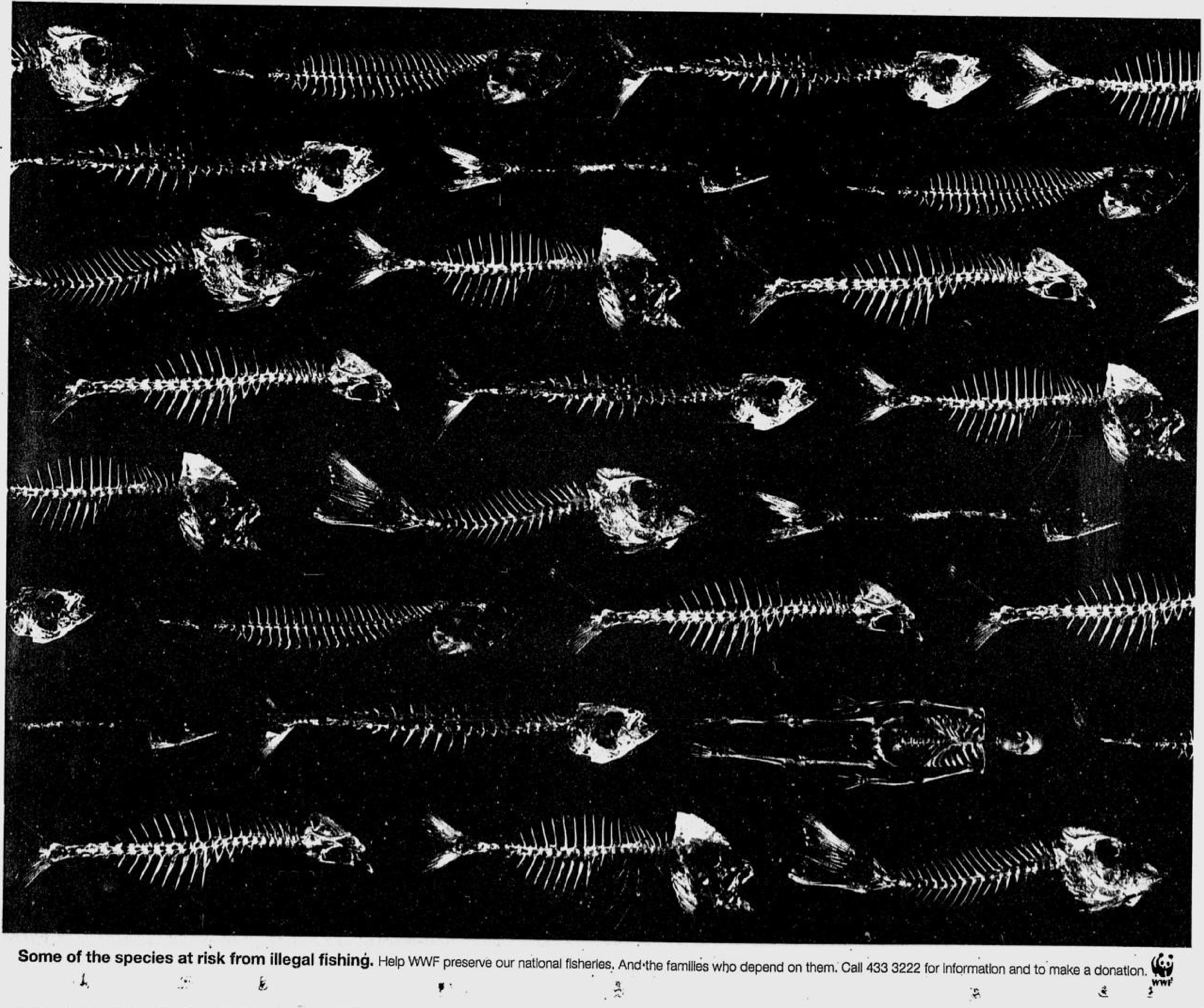

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Geneva Cruz makes first movie in six years

By Edmund L. Sicam

FOR some show biz personalities, a marital breakup may not always be as disastrous as some people think. We're not saying it's a good career move for stars who want to make it big in the industry. Certainly, Pops Fernandez underwent emotional pain and torment when she split up with Martin Nievera. However, her career improved greatly after that, with movies that showed a more mature actress as well as concerts where her singing had more edge.

Now comes Geneva Cruz, whose marriage to Paco Arespacochaga joined the list of show biz unions that didn't work. Geneva seems to have followed Pops' route, appearing scantily clad in pictorials and posters for La Tondeña and donning outfits for her concert that show off her figure to great advantage.

Comeback movie

That, however, is how far she will go, says Geneva who co-stars with Janno Gibbs, Blakdyak and Angela Velez in "Weyt a Minit, Kaperg Mainit," opening Nov. 14. It is her first movie outing in six years. Her last movie was "Okay Ka Si Ma'am" with Alice Dixson and cousin Donna Cruz, right before she got pregnant.

"Weyt a Minit" features Janno and Blakdyak as two waiters who witness a rubout and disguise themselves as girls to escape from the bad guys, just like Tony Curtis and Jackie Lemmon did in "Some It Like in Hot." They cross paths with Geneva and Angela as two Japayukis who get involved with the mob.

Geneva says this is not a bold movie, more of a comedy where the two actresses provide the sex appeal. She does have a kissing scene with Janno but it is executed in a funny way so there's nothing sexy about it.

It's also not a musical even if she and Janno are singers, but Geneva has a dance number. Unlike other movies of Jano where he is linked to his leading lady, Geneva insists nothing of that sort happened with her.

She has finished two other movies, "Burlesk King" with Andrew E and an action movie "Nagiisang Ikaw" where she plays an NPA amazon and co-star Mike Arroyo is a military officer.

No disrobing

Geneva clarifies that she has not accepted any movie requiring her to disrobe and show a lot more than she has bared in her calendar. "No breast exposure for me," says Geneva. "I'm not yet ready." She is also worried about her son, who already notices sexy women in pictures.

"*Kahit ano'ng sabihin mo*, in this country, people will not understand the artistic side of nudity. *Sa* theater *pa*," explains Geneva. She was supposed to appear in "Rent" as Maureen, who bares her butt in one scene. That would have been acceptable to her because the nudity was brief and there wouldn't be any VCDs of her being sold on the street. There was, however, a scheduling conflict so she couldn't accept the part. She says the farthest she will go is the "wet" look.

When we talked to *direk* Gil Portes recently, he told us of his movie project with Geneva and said he was going to convince the singer-actress to be more daring in it. He still had to sit down with her though. According to Geneva, the director will have to wait until next year because she already has three movies in the can.

Intrigue

Meanwhile, Geneva's name keeps popping up in show biz talk shows because of the many intrigues she's been involved in. She had a run-in with singer Gladys of Gladys and the Boxers, who impersonated her on "Eat Bulaga" by holding her nose high up, a reference to Geneva's having her nose fixed.

Geneva admits having her nose done. "*Anong masama noon*? At *least hindi ako nagpadagdag. Kung kailangan ba iyon sa trabaho*..." Anyway, the issue is already dead since Gladys has apologized to her.

There's also this matter about her not showing up for a shoot for which the producer had already rented a helicopter. She clarifies that it was her manager who advised her not to go because she had not been paid, with only two shooting days left, contrary to their agreement. Anyway, that problem has been cleared up. She's gotten paid and the movie's ready to be shown.

As far as her relationship with KC Montero is concerned, everything seems to be fine but marriage is still only a distant possibility.

JANNO AND GENEVA. Funny kissing scene.

Hotdog band's songs delight new audience

By Leia Torre

(Conclusion)

THE OTHER songs in the Hotdog album are "Manila," "Langit Na Naman," "Pers Lab," "Panaginip," "Bongga Ka Day," "Dying To Tell You," "Beh Buti Nga," "Ikaw Ang Miss Universe," "Oh, Lumapit Ka" and "Annie Batungbakal,"

Unique appeal

"Manila," a song that celebrates the unique appeal of our capital, is performed by the Eraserheads. "Manila" is compared to other metropolitan centers like San Francisco and Sydney, and comes out ahead. It also describes the things that give the city its unique flavor, like beautiful women and flying jeepneys. The song has a repetitive rhythm, and its lyrics are a blend of English and Tagalog words. It manages to achieve this blend without the awkwardness that usually accompanies attempts at combining English and Tagalog in one song.

"Langit Na Naman," performed by Barbie's Cradle, is a mellow love song that pledges unending love from the singer to whoever the recipient is. It talks of how everything about the recipient can make the singer feel like he or she is in heaven. "Pers Lab," by Cooky Chua, likens the feeling of being in love to that of ice cream left under the sun to melt.

Other lovesick symptoms include the inability to sleep or eat, and the profusion of pimples that appear as a result of many sleepless nights. The song tackles the possibility of falling in love without even being acquainted with the object of one's adoration.

Disbelief

"Panaginip," sung by Brownbeat All Stars, is first and foremost an expression of the singer's disbelief in all the wonderful things that are happening, specifically his or her loved one returning his or her affections. It has a boogie rhythm that one can dance to, if one were so inclined. Wistful longing is evident in the singer's voice—the longing not to wake up from the delightful dream of being in love and loved.

"Bongga Ka Day," one of the most catchy numbers in the album, is brought to life again by "Color It Red." It tells of the amazing impact of a woman dressed to the nines on a roomful of people. The song itself is an attention-grabber, with its fast-paced tempo and enthusiastic drumbeats.

"Beh Buti Nga" is one of the most enjoyable songs in the album. It features a man, or a group of men, who has or have been scorned by what they consider an overly picky woman. Now that the tide has turned, it is the man's time for revenge, which he metes out by parading all of his achievements in front of the woman and by taunting her with them.

Extreme feminists, however, may take offense. The song is performed by "Parokya Ni Edgar," well-known for their tendency to poke fun at society and at themselves.

"Ikaw Ang Miss Universe" can be described as a slow-paced song of reassurance. The singer places the woman he loves on a pedestal, and makes sure that she realizes this by informing her that she is the equivalent of a Miss Universe title holder—in his life, at least. He assuages the woman's insecurity by disregarding the beauty of the reigning beauty queens, citing an old teaching that beauty, like luck, is capricious and easily lost. This song of worshipful love is presented to us by True Faith.

Sensual song

"Oh, Lumapit Ka," performed by Aquarella, is a slow, sensual song whose intention is to seduce the listener. The lyrics, which are intended to lure the recipient into approaching the singer, are sung in a breathy manner. Parts of the song are sung in Spanish, giving the song a more romantic texture. The melody shows the influence of Latin music, which invites the listener to dance to the beat.

These songs are the different bands' or performers' tribute to the Hotdog. By reviving them, the musical groups have contributed to the continuing influence of the Hotdog's compositions, especially on the younger generation.

As these performers are more familiar with the younger set, there is a greater likelihood that the songs will be listened to and appreciated. This may even lead to the youth's digging out old records to listen to the original versions of the songs. A good start towards reinvigorating the Hotdog's original compositions!

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POWERED BY THE SMART NETWORK

Promising talents light up the musical-theater scene

BY RITO P. ASILO

IF there is something that the Philippines doesn't run out of, it is its pool of talented newcomers who keep the local theater scene dynamic and exciting. Which is probably why, despite the scarcity of sponsors and the looming 20 percent withholding tax burden on performers, there is no dearth of promising faces aiming for a share of the performing pie.

Ana Feleo was a painfully shy, chubby, pig-tailed 14-year-old when she watched the original cast of Ryan Cayabyab and Nestor Torre's, "Magnificat," the country's longest-running religious musical, rehearse at the family residence in Horseshoe Village in late 1995.

PARDUCHO-ASUNCION. Shifts effortlessly from role to role.

Performing genes

Ana's performing genes are nothing to scoff at. She is the daughter of top-notch actor Johnny Delgado and world-class film director Laurice Guillen. Her grandfather is veteran megman Ben Feleo.

A senior at U.P.'s College of Music, where she studies voice under Fides Cuyugan-Asencio, Aná admits that it was her early experience watching "Magnificat" rehearsals that brought out her singing talent.

She remembers, "My sister, Ina, and I would help Mom type and photocopy the first drafts of the script. Then we recorded copies of Mr. C's (Ryan Cayabyab) vocal demo for the cast. We knew the music by heart, but we never got to watch 'Magnificat' until last September's special performance at the Manila Cathedral.

But Ana didn't just watch "Magnificat" last September. She became its newest performer. "It was a dream come true when Tito Nestor (Torre, the show's director) asked me to join the production. He was my mom's mentor when she played Desdemona to his Othello, back when they were still actors, and now he is directing me. After I met the cast—and this was after six years—and rehearsed with them for the first time, I cried inside my car," she beams with pride. "I can't wait to do the show again in December!"

After "Magnificat," which is a sung-through musical, she went straight to Chris Martinez's "Last Order sa Penguin," alongside actress Giselle Sanchez and funnyman Andy Bais, for this year's Palanca Awards rites.

She tells us that the cynical, desperate character (who cursed like there was no tomorrow) she played was a total 360-degree turn for her. "Tito Nes really pushed me to create a character that was totally different from who I am," she marvels.

Acting bug

Now that the acting bug has bitten her, Ana's infectious enthusiasm has brought her to Musicat's back-to-back restaging of Nonoy Gallardo's "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?," as Josephine Bracken, and "Alikabok," as Anna, scheduled at the Music Museum early next year. Even hard-to-please Musicat producer Celeste Legaspi-Gallardo, whom we met in Malacañang for the TOWNS ceremonies, said she was impressed. "With those impressive performing genes *ba naman,*" she gushed.

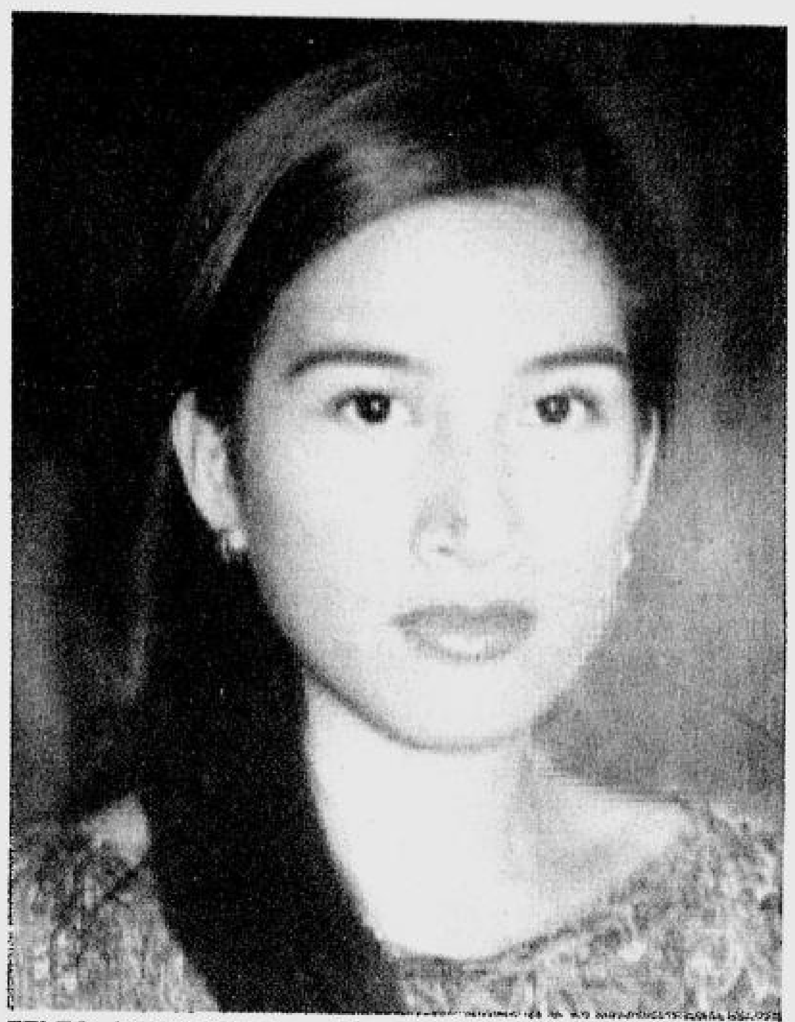
Slowly, Ana is creating a niche of her own in the exciting world of theater. And unlike her famous parents, she's taking the singing and stage acting route. With her good looks, good genes, coupled with good attitude, discipline and love for the craft, there's no way for Ana but up.

She dreams of putting up a music school someday, but for now, she's happy discovering acting and herself. She says, "Acting allows you to discover who you are and what you can do as a person. It is not only fulfilling, but is also a realization of what talent God has gifted us with."

Like Ana, Shiela Parducho-Asuncion took to acting like a duck takes to water. She never expected to like playing Cosette in a university production of "Les Miserables" but after the run, she was hooked!

Voice lessons

Wanting to do more, while taking voice at U.P under Antonio Hila, she auditioned for New Voice Company's Manila staging of "Chess: The Musical" because she was curious about the etiology of the song, "I Know Him So Well," sung by Elaine Page, which became a commercial hit earlier in the Philippines.



FELEO. Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen's daughter is making it on her own.

"Soon after, I realized that the challenge was not in hurdling auditions but getting into the productions where I could really spread my wings as an actress," she says, "I like the variety of doing both English and Tagalog, and seeing how different doing them are."

She says that it was easier to find an emotional attachment to Tagalog plays because the medium makes it more real. "You just don't depend on technique," she reasons.

If Shiela sounds like she has done a considerable number of plays, it is because she has toured and performed extensively, despite the relatively short time that she has been doing theater. She got into the Tanghalang Pilipino productions of Ryan Cayabyab's "El Fili" musical and the popular *zarswela,* "Walang Sugat." With this theater group she toured the Visayas and Mindanao.

Powerful rendition

Similarly, when she auditioned for a role in "Sino Ka Ba, Jose Rizal?," she impressed its director with her powerful rendition of "Mutya ng Pasig" and "Her or Me"—before bagging the role of Leonor Valenzuela, alongside Mikee Cojuangco's Leonor Rivera, Rachel Alejandro's Josephine Bracken and Ogie Alcasid's Jose Rizal. Her impressive showing in "Rizal" led her to another Cayabyab opus, "Magnificat," which brought her all over the Philippines.

This is where the travel became extensive. She recalls, "One time, after a show in Manila, we just fixed our costumes, packed our props, and rode a hired bus for a 12-hour trip to Naga. After coming back to Manila, we then flew south for our Visayas and Mindanao tour, starting from Leyte. We took a ferry to Cebu to do three performances, and took another ferry to Cagayan de Oro."

Shiela has many stories to tell, including how theater has turned her into a mature and focused performer. In "Magnificat's" performances, she has played the vocally challenging role of Isabel.

In last year's "Bakhita The Musical," about the life story of St. Josephine Bakhita, she portrayed the young African saint, and the Mother Superior of the Canossian order.

These days, she tours with Bing Pimentel's "Nasaan si Hesus?," the popular and critically-acclaimed religious musical revue of the CBCP, where she portrays a number of very difficult roles—a pregnant teenager's best friend who discourages the former from having the baby aborted; a church *manang*; a nun who discovers that a charitable donor is so charitable at all; a wronged woman falsely convicted of murdering her two-timing husband; the clueless wife of a philanderer; a tough-talking reporter, among others. Quite an impressive list of difficult roles, if you ask us!

Armed conflict

She says she can't forget how exciting it was to tour "Nasaan si Hesus?" in Mindanao last year during the height of the armed conflict of the government troops and the MILF.

"The excitement was not only in the fact that our audiences loved the show, but also in the transfer from one place to the next--like, we would go from Cagayan de Oro to Butuan to Gingoog City then back to Cagayan de Oro," she shares, "You would see military checkpoints in between. And airport security was very strict."

But, as the theater edict goes, it was "The show must go on" for Shiela and the rest of the cast of the musical revue.

Shiela hopes to tackle more difficult roles in the future, and maybe write a script, edit and direct it for the big screen. That may be quite a number of hats but Shiela doesn't mind wearing all of them.

Medical technologist

On the other hand, Brenda Glaire Geroy wears a different professional hat other than that of an actress'—she is a full-fledged medical technologist at the San Lorenzo Hospital in Quezon City. She ran short of her goal of becoming a doctor, and opted instead to take the shorter course.

She is a granddaughter of movie director, Ben Villamor, who handled Bembol Roco and Laarni Enriquez in the movie, "Totoy Guwapo," so venturing eventually into the performing arts seemed a natural move for her.

It's not the money or the fame that drove her to try her luck in theater. She explains, "You get something important for and from yourself. You learn to push the limits of what you can do."

Acting was initially just a diversion for her, but when she caught the lure of the stage, it became a passion. She may have a hard time juggling her schedule between rehearsals and hospital duties but she loves the adrenaline rush she gets out of it.

Fond memories

Whether in a chorale or acting and singing onstage, performing gives Glaire a different high. She remembers doing very challenging roles in "Nang Makalimot ang Diyos" and "Sa Paanan ng Krus," but her fondest memories were of "Bakhita, The Musical" which toured extensively in Manila and around Luzon.

When she sang "On My Own" at the "Bakhita" auditions, she was readily singled out for the role of St. Magdalene of Canossa, whose "What is Self," was one of the production's well-loved songs. But more than the thrill that she got out of it, she fondly remembers the panic she felt everytime she tried to keep up with the show's fast pacing.

"I sometimes forgot to tuck my bonnet in," she laughingly shares, "so I came out with an 'alien-looking' headdress. There were times when she would come out with unzipped skirts or untucked tops. She even forgot to remove the black body make-up she wore as an African in the transition scene where she was already supposed to be an Italian!

Diction lessons

Tough and rigorous as it was, Glaire cherished each moment because she said she learned so much from it. "We had lessons in diction, but this time not only in English. We had African nuns tutoring us how to sound African, an Italian nun teaching us those characteristic slides and verbal extensions— even a Muslim cast member who taught us the way for males and females to pray to Allah," she shares.

Theater may be hard work but it is all worth it for Glaire. She concludes, "If I didn't do it, I would not have discovered that I love acting *pala.*" ***(To be concluded.)***

GEROY. Loves learning to push the limits of what she can do.

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Treat of the Week
Nestlé Cream

Saturday SPECIAL

Apple Cream Cravings

1-1/2	cups flour	1/2	cup pitted and chopped prunes
2	tsps baking powder	2	apples, coarsely chopped
1/4	tsp salt	1/2	cup brown sugar, combined with
1/2	cup butter	2	tbsps chopped almonds or walnuts
3/4	cup brown sugar	1	170 g can NESTLE CREAM, chilled
3/4	cup NESTLE CREAM		
1/2	cup sugar		

Combine flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl. Cut in butter until pea sized pieces. Blend in brown sugar, then cream until mixture is evenly moist. Set aside. Arrange prunes and apples in a buttered oven-proof dish. Sprinkle 1/2 cup sugar on top of fruits then put in cobbler mixture. Top with sugar-almond mixture and bake 35 min. at 350°F. Serve warm with a dollop of cream on top.

Makes: 18 - 2 inch square pieces

Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

First 'Harry Potter' film could emerge as the year's biggest hit

LONDON—After its triumphant world premiere here last Nov. 4, the long-awaited film, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" bids fair to become the biggest hit of the current film year. It could top the sensational showing of "Shrek," which has earned more than $250 M at the tills.

In fact, some Hollywood tipsters even surmise that the first "Harry Potter" film could end up riding a rising groundswell of public approval and making much more than that, ending up as the "Titanic" of the New Millenium.

That remains to be seen, of course. But the film's hugely successful premiere has raised expectations for the film's record-breaking showing once it opens its regular run on Nov. 16.

Shrieks of excitement and a blizzard of photo flashes greeted three astonished young stars at Sunday's premiere of the long-awaited film.

Young fans, some dressed up as the boy wizard and his friends, gave a wild welcome to Daniel Radcliffe, the 12-year-old who plays Harry, and Rupert Grint, 13, and Emma Watson, 11, who play Harry's school pals Ron and Hermione.

First taste of celebrity

The trio, getting their first taste of celebrity, seemed happy, stunned and nervous before the masses of cameras and microphones, and the voices shouting their names from every direction.

"I knew it was going to be big, but I wasn't really expecting this," said Rupert. "I am a bit blown away to be honest."

Daniel had been nervous for hours.

"I am almost numb with nerves and that has never happened before," he said. "I woke up last night at 3 a.m., 4 a.m. and 6 a.m., and although I am very nervous I am also extremely excited and happy today."

Stars from TV, film and the pop music world showed up by the dozen, almost all of them with a child or two in tow.

A touch of Hollywood

A platinum-blonde Cher brought a touch of Hollywood glamour to the occasion with her matching gown and sequinned jacket. Spice Girl Emma Bunton showed up in trousers and a T-shirt. Sting was there, and so were a host of British television stars. Most were soberly—and warmly-dressed for the chill November dusk.

Potter creator Joanne Rowling, whose magic touch has hooked millions of children around the world on reading about Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, seemed almost as stunned as the young actors, but clearly happy at the crowd's reception.

Rowling, elegant in a black-velvet trouser suit, said she had been delighted to see so many children outside the theater dressed up like Hogwarts students.

Nervous

"Before seeing the film, I was very nervous, but I'm very pleased with it and think everyone will love it," she said. "It was amazing to see everybody here today and I'm just so happy for all the children who came along to be part of this."

Director Chris Columbus, whose previous films include "Home Alone" and "Mrs. Doubtfire," was there with his own children.

He said seeing the film this way, with a theater full of people, "is really the most pleasure I can get out of this."

AP

EMMA Watson and Rupert Grint with Daniel Radcliffe (right), who plays the title role in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

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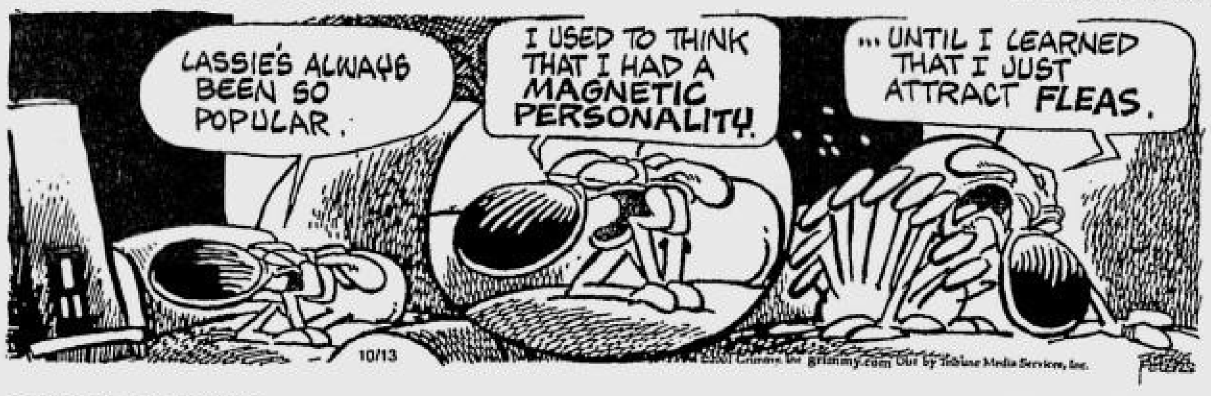
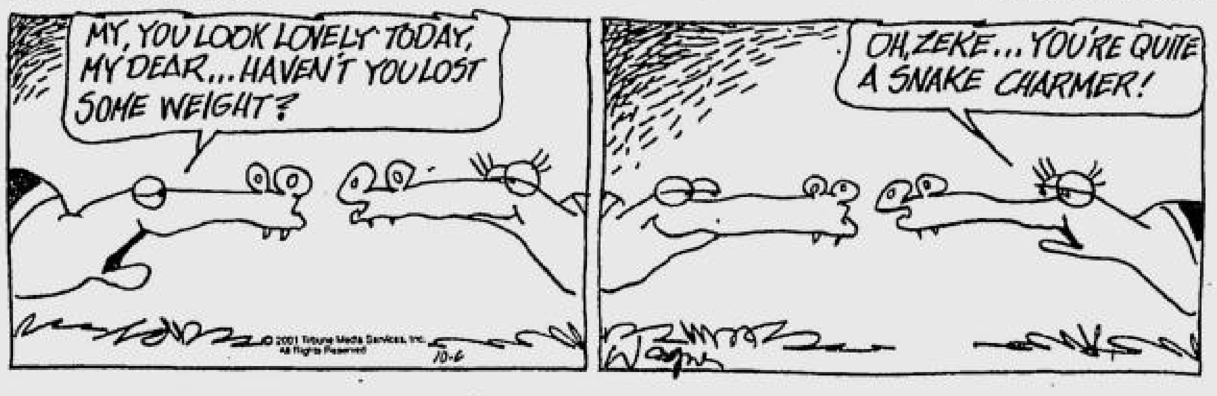
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


LASSIE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO POPULAR.
I USED TO THINK THAT I HAD A MAGNETIC PERSONALITY
...UNTIL I LEARNED THAT I JUST ATTRACT FLEAS.
10/13
grimmy.com

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


MY, YOU LOOK LOVELY TODAY, MY DEAR... HAVEN'T YOU LOST SOME WEIGHT?
OH, ZEKE... YOU'RE QUITE A SNAKE CHARMER!
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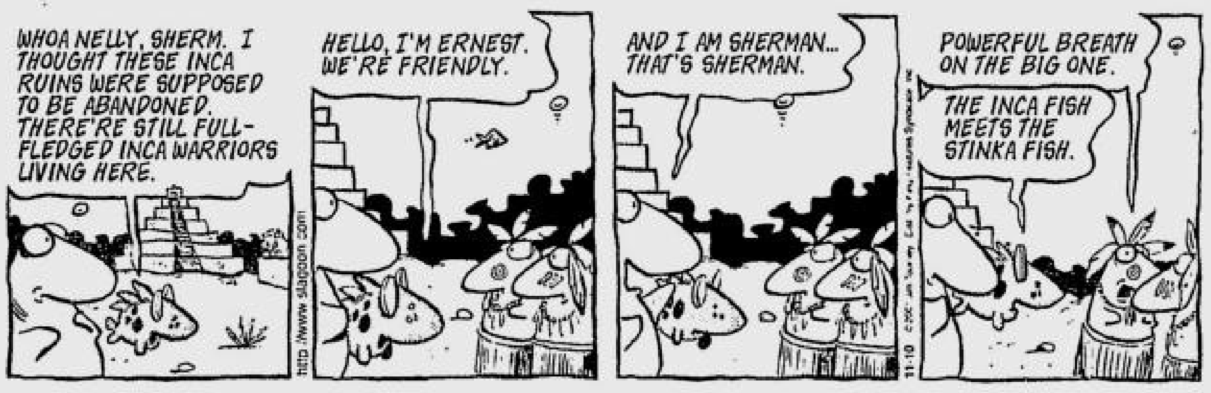
10-6
Wagner

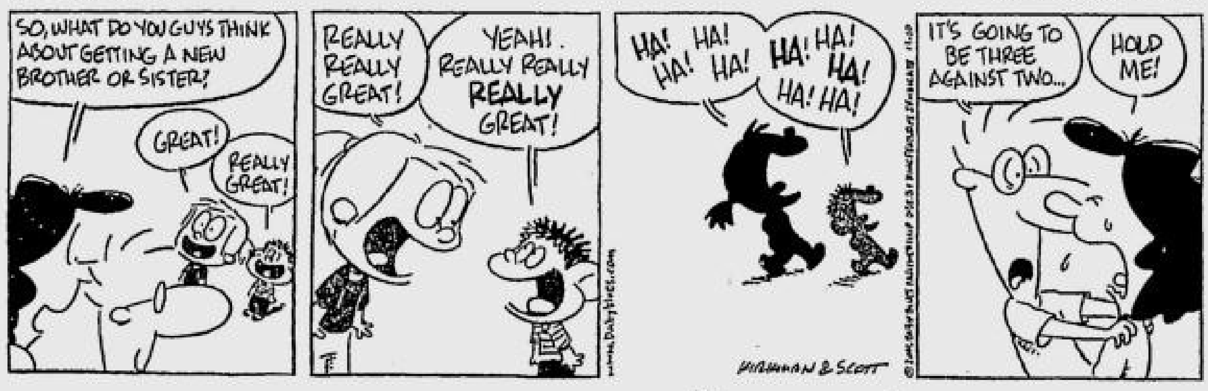
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHOA NELLY, SHERM. I THOUGHT THESE INCA RUINS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ABANDONED. THERE'RE STILL FULL-FLEDGED INCA WARRIORS LIVING HERE.
HELLO, I'M ERNEST. WE'RE FRIENDLY.
AND I AM SHERMAN... THAT'S SHERMAN.
POWERFUL BREATH ON THE BIG ONE.
THE INCA FISH MEETS THE STINKA FISH.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-10

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO, WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK ABOUT GETTING A NEW BROTHER OR SISTER?
GREAT!
REALLY GREAT!
REALLY REALLY GREAT!
YEAH! REALLY REALLY REALLY GREAT!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
IT'S GOING TO BE THREE AGAINST TWO...
HOLD ME!
www.DailyBlues.com
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roy Scheider, Mackenzie Phillips, Tim Rice, Ann Reinking, Donna Fargo **Happy Birthday:** If you respond quickly to situations, you will prove yourself to individuals who can be helpful in the future. Your persistence will be the reason for your success. Your numbers: 17, 19, 22, 35, 38, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let anyone in on your secrets, or betrayal may follow. In business and in your personal life, others will want to meddle. Jealousy is evident today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get an early start; there is so much to do. Loved ones will help if you ask for their support. Being well-prepared is half the battle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Taking on too much will lead to frustration. Don't be surprised if unexpected guests drop by, adding to your anxiety. Someone at home may not be accommodating, which will be embarrassing and stressful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have been selfish lately by ignoring someone, so make amends by offering your undivided attention. You don't have to spend money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's time to develop a partnership. Kick around with a good friend ideas for earning extra cash. Starting your own part-time business could ease financial stress and help secure your future.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will enjoy live theater, sports events or any lively entertainment. You will be in a high cycle for love and romance. Plan something special with a partner. If you don't have one, go out to meet and greet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Follow your instincts. If you point an accusing finger, expect denial and opposition. Be observant. Someone will reveal his or her true colors if you are patient.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Become involved in organizational activities that help those less fortunate. You will have done something worthwhile and will meet dedicated people who can influence your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've been wasting time and must catch up. Run one of your innovative ideas by someone you respect for his or her reaction. This individual may be able to add some valuable input.

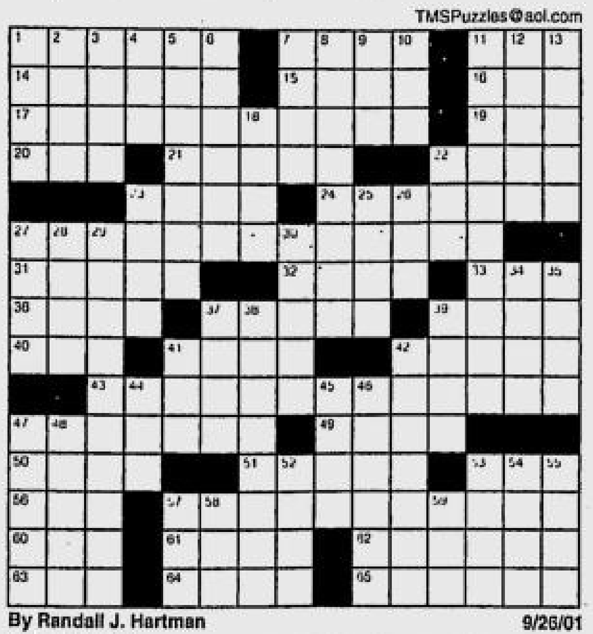
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should sign up for a seminar, especially one given by someone who has years of experience in your chosen field. This is the time to expand your knowledge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't fall behind or you may find yourself caught in a mess of papers concerning insurance, wills, taxes, etc. Deal with each issue separately. Seek help if you aren't capable of doing a good job.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be feeling restless. Your desire to mingle with new friends may cause friction with your regular crowd. Make sure you fulfill any promises before you abandon someone who's counting on you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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56 57 58 59
60 61 62
63 64 65

By Randall J. Hartman
Escondido, CA

9/26/01

ACROSS

1 Bearlike mammals
7 "Atlas Shrugged" author
11 School org.
14 Opera passage
15 Contemporary Irish singer
16 Circle segment
17 Noon blastoff at Cape Canaveral?
19 Grog ingredient
20 Tumor: suff.
21 Relative speed
22 Flower holder
23 Woody Guthrie's son
24 Inclines toward vertical
27 Fugitive model?
31 Salty
32 DLI doubled
33 Fauna display
36 Hostels
37 Receded
39 Fruit's coat
40 Wind dir.
41 "The Night of the Hunter" screenwriter
42 Inasmuch as
43 Trough overseer?
47 Get rid of
49 Villainous
50 Silver and Perlman
51 Like college walls
53 Now I see!
56 Down dumplings
57 Fire a waitress?
60 Ultimate degree
61 Uniform
62 Casual top
63 Nincompoop
64 Mae or Adam
65 In conflict

DOWN

1 __ Alto, CA
2 Calla lily, e.g.
3 Singer Simone
4 Medico
5 Butt collector
6 Exclusively
7 Sign on for another hitch
8 Make known publicly
9 LIRR terminus
10 Lah-di-__
11 Disabling
12 Expect loyalty
13 Summits
18 God of love
22 By way of
23 Barley bristles
25 Discharged a debt
26 Light starter?
27 Bagwell stats
28 Samovars
29 Pregnancy span
30 Brownish hue
34 A single time
35 Polish-German border river
37 Easter items
38 '60s hairdos
39 Iranian currency
41 Tropical blackbird
42 Sarcastic to the max
44 Capp and Gore
45 Former P.M. of Israel
46 Zoroastrian sacred texts
47 Fight site
48 Watercraft
52 Jacket slit
53 Roman poet
54 Group of gnus
55 Meal scraps
57 Put in stitches
58 12/24 or 12/31
59 Pi follower

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

D	R	A	W	■	C	L	O	G	■	P	A	S	S	E
R	I	C	E	■	H	U	L	L	■	R	U	M	O	R
A	S	H	B	L	O	N	D	E	■	A	R	O	M	A
B	E	E	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	L	A	K	E	S
■	■	■	D	O	U	R	■	C	H	I	L	I	■	■
J	A	P	A	N	S	■	C	L	A	N	■	N	U	B
E	L	U	D	E	■	■	R	U	L	E	■	G	P	A
S	O	F	A	■	D	O	U	B	T	■	A	G	E	S
U	H	F	■	L	O	U	D	■	■	S	L	U	N	K
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R	A	S	P	Y	■	I	D	L	E	R	■	A	L	T
U	L	T	R	A	■	D	R	A	G	R	A	C	E	R
S	O	R	E	R	■	E	A	S	E	■	D	I	N	E
K	E	Y	E	D	■	R	Y	E	S	■	O	D	D	S

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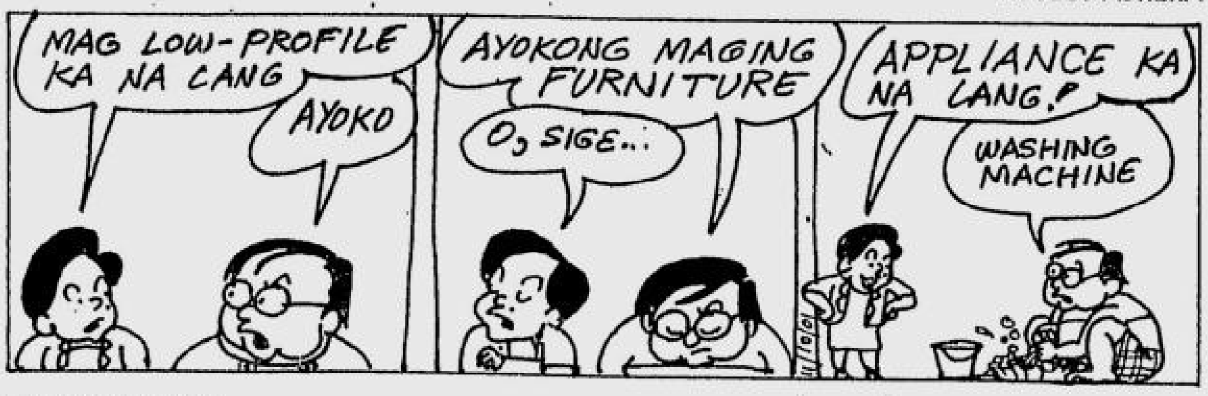
9/26/01

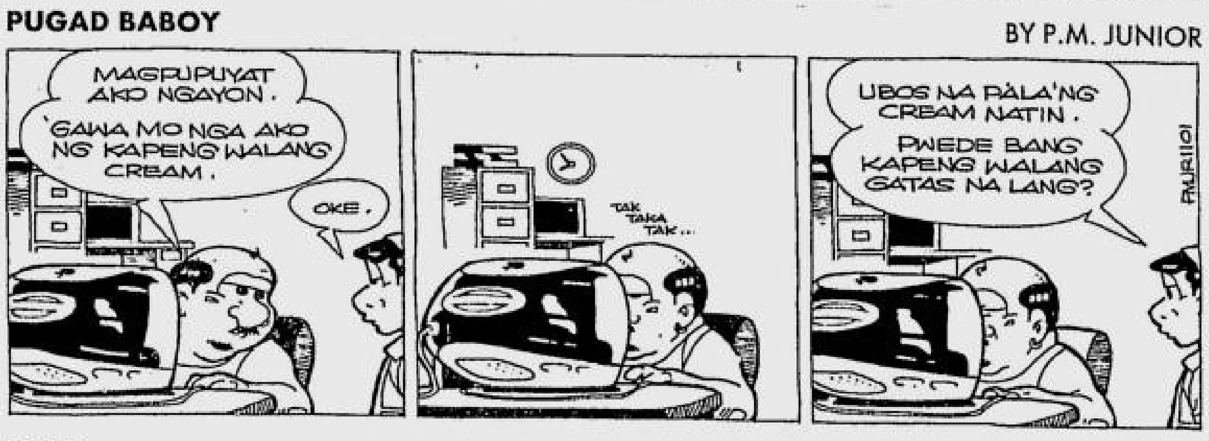
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAG LOW-PROFILE KA NA LANG
AYOKO
AYOKONG MAGING FURNITURE
O, SIGE...
APPLIANCE KA NA LANG!
WASHING MACHINE
11/10/01

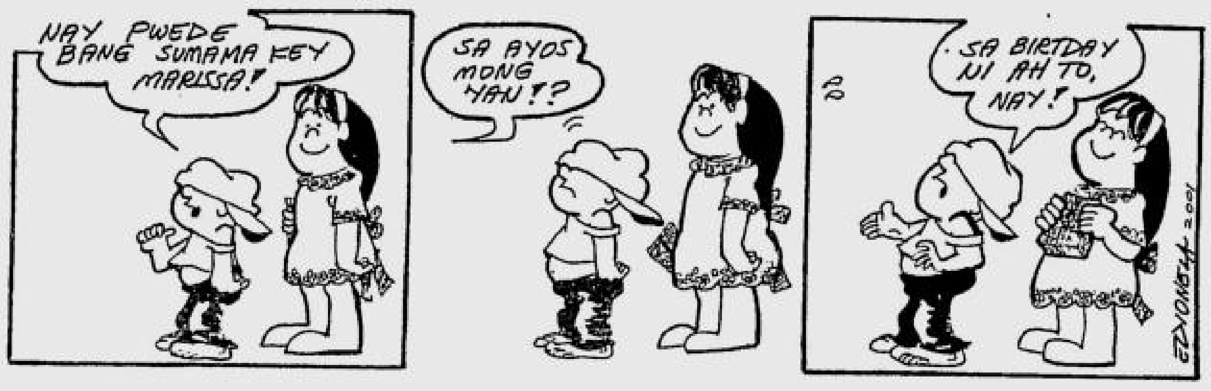
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGPUPUYAT AKO NGAYON.
GAWA MO NGA AKO NG KAPENG WALANG CREAM.
OKE.
TAK TAKA TAK...
UBOS NA PALA'NG CREAM NATIN.
PWEDE BANG KAPENG WALANG GATAS NA LANG?
PMJR1101

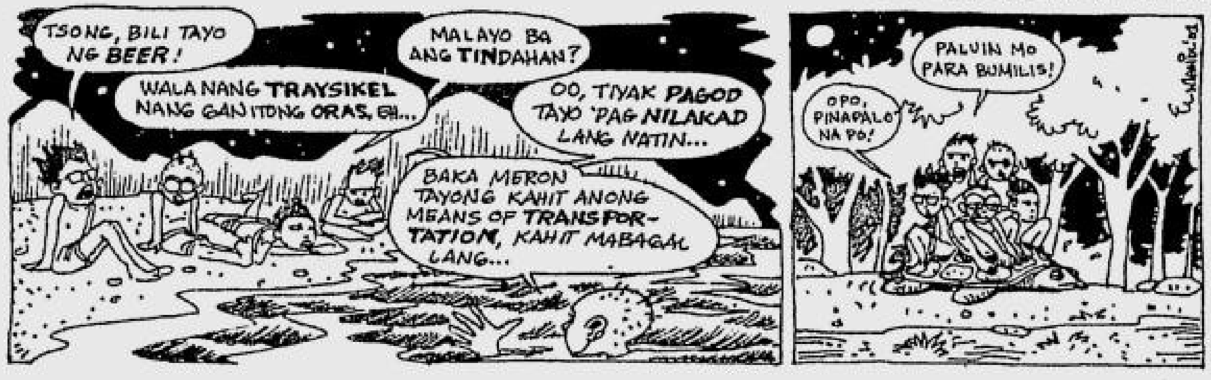
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY PWEDE BANG SUMAMA KEY MARISSA?
SA AYOS MONG YAN!?
SA BIRTDAY NI AH TO, NAY!
EDMONELA 2001

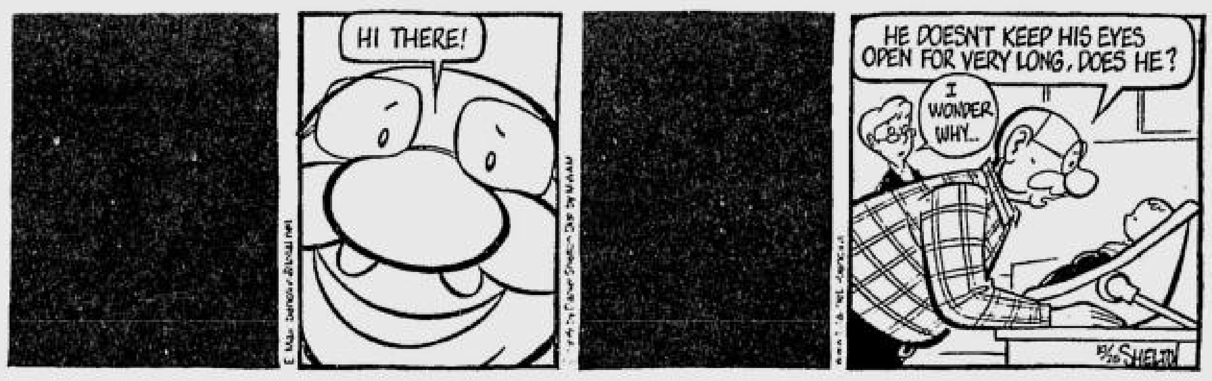
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


TSONG, BILI TAYO NG BEER!
WALA NANG TRAYSIKEL NANG GANITONG ORAS, EH...
MALAYO BA ANG TINDAHAN?
OO, TIYAK PAGOD TAYO 'PAG NILAKAD LANG NATIN...
BAKA MERON TAYONG KAHIT ANONG MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION, KAHIT MABAGAL LANG...
PALUIN MO PARA BUMILIS!
OPO, PINAPALO NA PO!

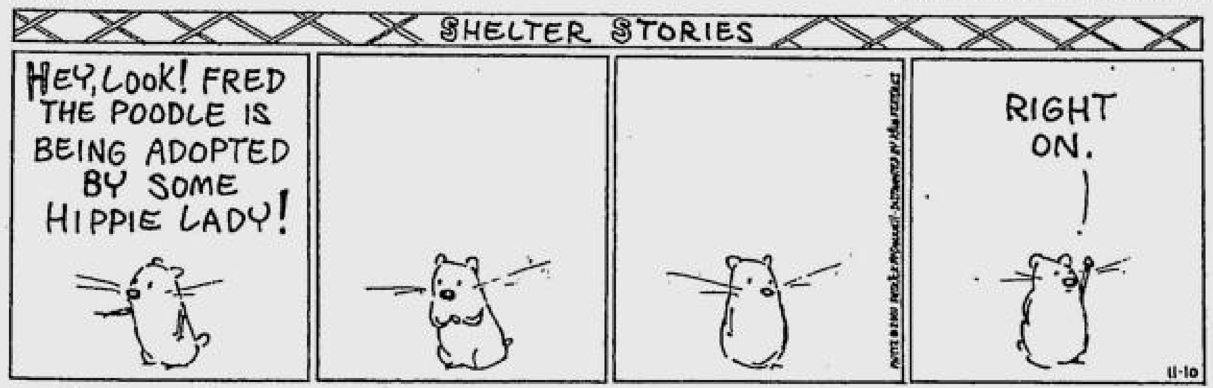
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HI THERE!
HE DOESN'T KEEP HIS EYES OPEN FOR VERY LONG, DOES HE?
I WONDER WHY...
SHELTON

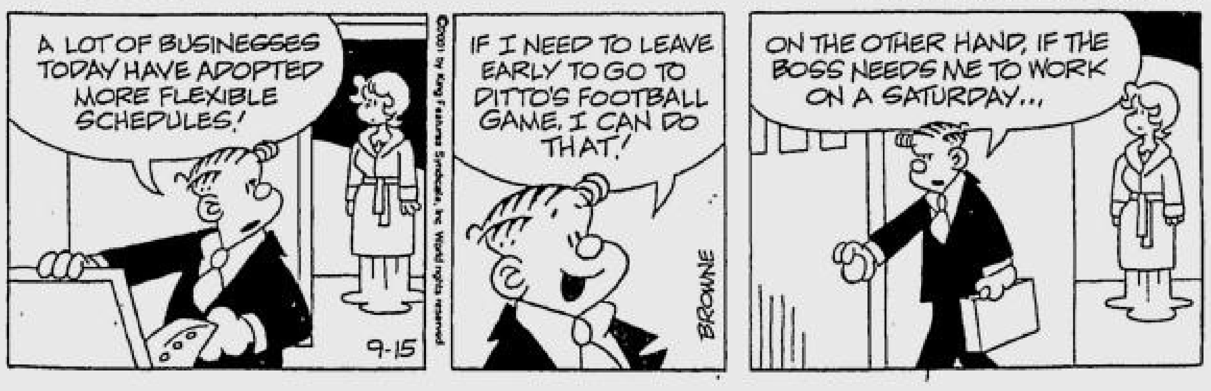
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
HEY, LOOK! FRED THE POODLE IS BEING ADOPTED BY SOME HIPPIE LADY!
RIGHT ON.
11-10

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


A LOT OF BUSINESSES TODAY HAVE ADOPTED MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES!
IF I NEED TO LEAVE EARLY TO GO TO DITTO'S FOOTBALL GAME, I CAN DO THAT!
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE BOSS NEEDS ME TO WORK ON A SATURDAY...
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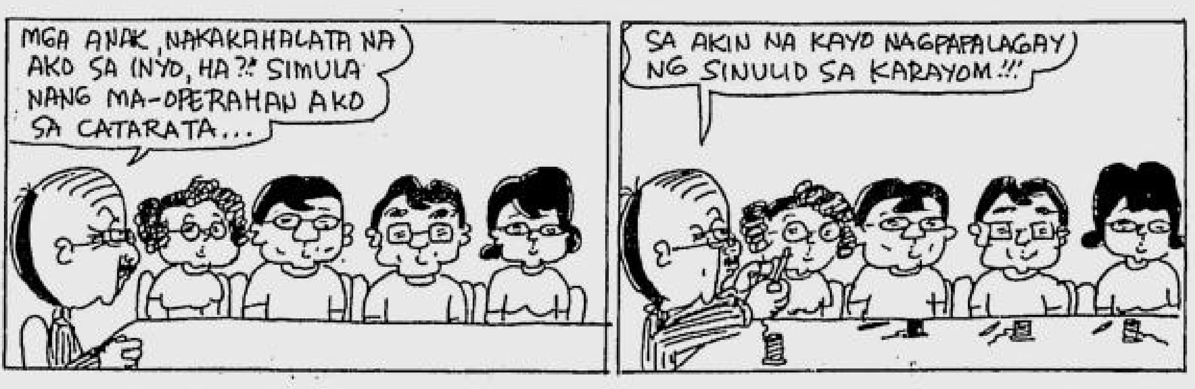
9-15
BROWNE

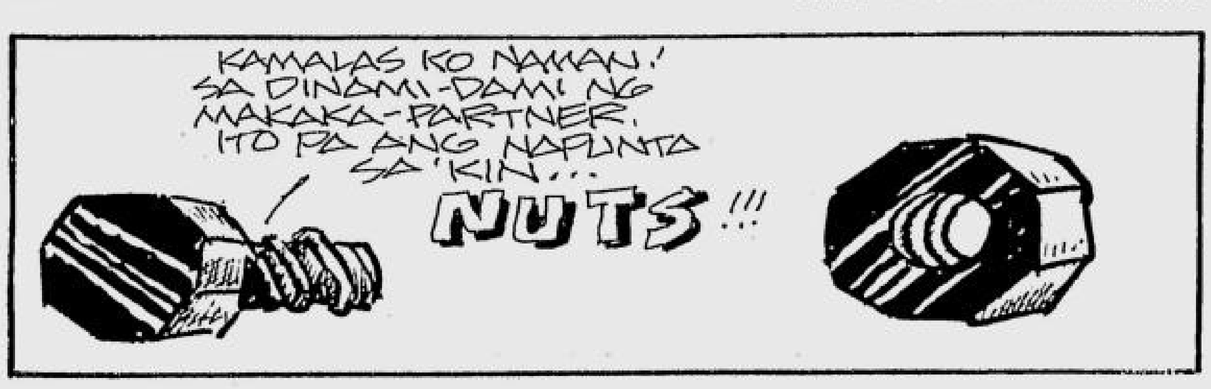
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA ANAK, NAKAKAHALATA NA AKO SA INYO, HA?! SIMULA NANG MA-OPERAHAN AKO SA CATARATA...
SA AKIN NA KAYO NAGPAPALAGAY NG SINULID SA KARAYOM!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


KAMALAS KO NAMAN! SA DINAMI-DAMI NG MAKAKA-PARTNER, ITO PA ANG NAPUNTA SA 'KIN...
NUTS!!!

Iwanami Hall screens international film masterpieces

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

THIS coming December and January, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Jose Rizal" will have a long run at Tokyo's prestigious Iwanami Hall, the first Filipino film to be granted that signal honor. Since 1968, Iwanami Hall has showcased the best movies ever made. Being tapped for an Iwanami Hall run is regarded in film circles as a special distinction.

It means joining such esteemed films as Ingmar Bergman's "The Magician," Satyajit Ray's "The World of Apu," Jean Renoir's "The Grand Illusion," Sergei Eisenstein's "Que Viva Mexico!," Luchino Visconti's "The Leopard," Mira Nair's "Salaam Bombay!," Chen Kaige's "Life on A String" and Xie Jin's "The Opium War."

Special mission

Why is Iwanami Hall such a prized screening venue? Theater manager Ms. Etsuko Takano shares the art film theater's objectives to underscore its special mission:

1.To introduce film masterpieces from the Third World that have not been exhibited in Japan.

2.To exhibit masterpieces from Europe and the Americas that have not been picked up by major Japanese distributors.

3.To show masterpieces from the world's film history that, for one reason or another, have not been exhibited in Japan. Also, to present films that had been cut, in their complete, original form.

4.To assist in the introduction of Japanese film masterpieces.

Word of mouth

At first, the theater had a hard time filling its seats. However, excellent reviews and word-of-mouth publicity soon brought in enthusiastic film buffs, and Iwanami Hall's carefully-selected offerings continued to beef up that loyal audience.

In addition, distributors started sharing information about excellent films that had been sitting, unreleased, in customs warehouses for up to five years, because they were deemed too risky for commercial exhibition in mainstream theaters.

At Iwanami Hall, however, they found the small but avid audience they had been looking for. To find even more masterpieces for the theater, Ms Takano attended as many international film festivals as she could.

Travel

"Also," she recalls, "if I heard that excellent films existed in a particular country, I would travel to that country and arrange to see as many as 50 of its representative works. Eventually, I was spending as much as five months a year abroad.

"I would do everything I could to bring myself close to a land whose motion pictures I proposed to show: meeting its people, viewing its scenery, eating its food. This deepened my understanding of a particular film, and gave me reserves of enthusiasm when we began to show it."

This special enthusiasm is evident in the inspired and imaginative way that Iwanami Hall promotes its carefully-chosen attractions. For instance, to drum up big audiences for "Jose Rizal," director Diaz-Abaya was invited to fly to Tokyo for a week of interviews with more than 10 major media outlets.

Wide spectrum

The interviewees were chosen to cover a wide spectrum of audiences. Diaz-Abaya made such a strong impression during the interviews that she was asked to comment, not just on her film, but also on a wide range of other topics. Thus, the interviews projected her as a gifted and committed filmmaker *and* person, and this raised the cachet of "Jose Rizal" even more.

The success of Iwanami Hall in exposing Japanese audiences to rarely-seen film masterpieces has led to the rise of other mini-theaters that now show European classics as a matter of course. This has prompted Iwanami Hall to do pioneering work in another area, by reaching out to "a wider world of nations whose films should be better known in Japan—Senegal, Turkey, China, South Korea, Argentina, Nicaragua, and other nations in Africa, Asia and Latin America," Ms Takano shares.

"Some of our titles draw more than 100,000 viewers. We have shown 146 films from 13 countries, 13 of which (Egypt, Nicaragua, Argentina, Indonesia, Thailand, and Bosnia-Herzegovina)had never had films exhibited in Japan.

Treasures

"The films we have shown are the treasures of Iwanami Hall. When I am not here, the list will still remain. It will last forever with, I hope, my heart at its core!"

MS. TAKANO with some of the posters of the outstanding films that Iwanami Hall has showcased through the years.

Iwanami Hall
JOSE RIZAL
DIAZ-ABAYA with Ms. Takano in front of the billboard for "Jose Rizal."

DIAZ-ABAYA with her friends and filmmaking colleagues in Tokyo.

AOL Time Warner signs agreement with PRC

HONG KONG—AOL Time Warner Inc. has announced a historic agreement under which its CETV channel will be distributed to cable television subscribers in the Southern region of the People's Republic of China.

First time

According to Minister Xu Guang Chun, director of China's State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT), "This is the first time for a foreign TV institution to be granted cable TV carriage rights in Mainland China."

The carriage agreement was signed at SARFT headquarters in Beijing among AOL Time Warner's Turner Broadcasting System Asia Pacific unit; China Central Television (CCTV), China's national television network; China International Television Corp. (CITVC), the commercial branch of CCTV; and Guangdong Cable TV Networks Co., Ltd. (GCTV), one of China's largest cable operators.

Under the agreement, CETV, a 24-hour Mandarin-language information and entertainment channel, will be carried beginning in January 2002 on GCTV cable systems in Southern China. As part of the agreement, CCTV-9, CCTV's English-language news and information channel, will be carried on select Time Warner Cable systems—the first time a CCTV network will be carried on a 24-hour basis on any US cable system.

Significant step

Gerald M. Levin, chief executive officer of AOL Time Warner said, "We are very pleased to have achieved this landmark agreement, which represents a significant step in the growing relationship between AOL Time Warner and the people of China. It is part of a sustained effort by our operating divisions to work with Chinese partners in creating products and services for this dynamic marketplace"

Minister Xu also said: "The CETV and CCTV-9 reciprocal carriage agreement is the first Sino-US cooperative signed after Apec in Shanghai. It is concrete action, which echoes the spirit of Apec and is firmly supported by all parties involved."

RALPH LAUREN
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THREE HUGGABLE RALPH LAUREN TEDDY BEARS, YOURS FOR P500.00
WITH ANY RALPH LAUREN FRAGRANCE PURCHASE.

PROMO IS VALID FROM NOVEMBER 10 TO DECEMBER 10, 2001.
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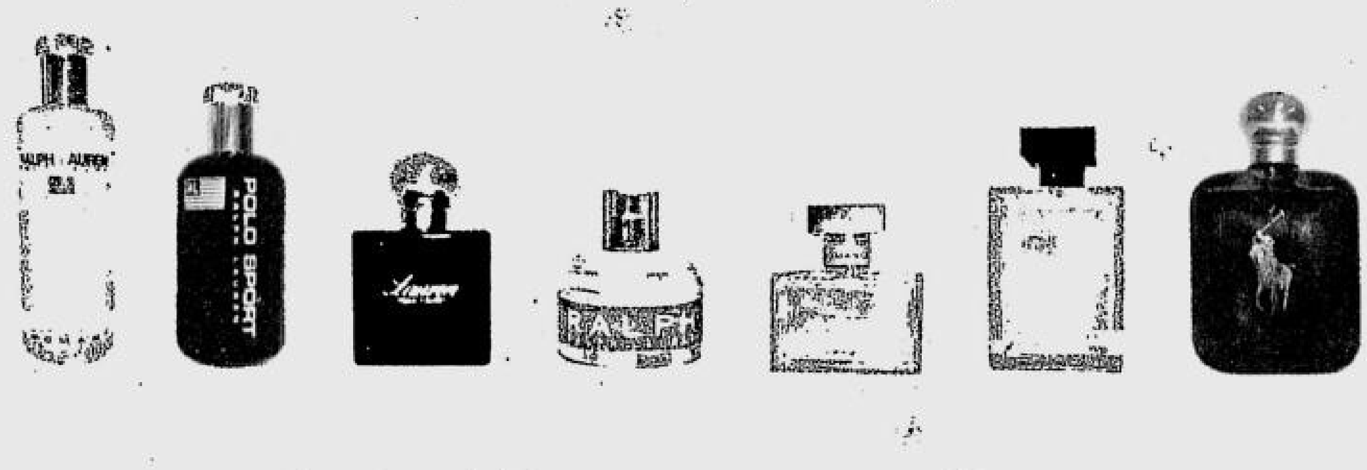

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(A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE DONATED TO THE SISTERS OF MARY SCHOOLS)

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THE LANDMARK

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0914, Series of 2001

Touch Mobile's P20,000 Everyday Raffle!

Win P20,000 daily from Oct. 29 to Dec. 21, 2001

Simply buy your Touch Mobile SIM or Phonekit & make your first call today

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Touch Mobile, the only prepaid cell phone service with the lowest rates at P6.50 per minute*, revolutionary voice services like Voice Messaging & Voice Info and nationwide coverage with over 1,495 cell sites, now gives you more chances of being a winner!

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Easy technology. Easily in touch.

Win P20,000 tax free, instantly in daily raffle draws from October 29 to Dec 21, 2001, here's how:

1. Touch Mobile subscribers who activate (*by calling 801*) their Touch Mobile units during the day from October 29 to December 21 are entitled to have a chance to win P20,000 in the electronic raffle of the day. (*daily activation cut off is from 12:01AM to 12MN*)

2. One winning number will be randomly drawn by an ERS (*Electronic Raffle Script*) from a Daily Activation Report of mobile numbers at 9AM the following day (ex. November 5 activations will be drawn on Nov 6) at the *Globe Telecom Plaza Building in Mandaluyong City* in the presence of a DTI representative. Saturday and Sunday draws will be held during the Monday draw. Monday draws will announce 3 winners (2 winners for the weekend draws and 1 winner for the Monday draw).

3. The Winner will be notified via text that reads: "*Congratulations! You just won P20,000 from Touch Mobile...*" The Winner will also be notified through a phone call from the **Touch Mobile P20,000 Everyday Raffle** team, who will ask for their name and address. They will also be notified through registered mail. Winners for the week will be announced in print-ads.

4. Winners may claim their prizes after: 5 working days for Metro Manila winners & 7 working days for provincial winners. (If the raffle date falls on a weekend or a holiday, count 5 or 7 days from the next working day) Winners may claim their prizes during working days only (Monday-Friday).

5. To claim their prizes, Winners should personally bring their Touch Mobile cell phone with the winning mobile number, a valid ID and the mailed notice to either:

   - Metro Manila Wingers- Globe Telecom Treasury Cashier at the 2F Globe Telecom Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong city.
   - Or, in the case of Provincial winners - cheques will be sent to the cashier of the Globe Telecom Business Center nearest the winner as indicated in the registered mail.

6. Prizes that remain unclaimed after 60 days from receipts of notice will be forfeited with prior DTI approval.

7. All Employees of Globe Telecom, Islacom, their advertising agencies and participating Globe Telecom and Islacom Business Centers including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining in this promo.

8. *Touch Mobile subscribers (subs) who purchased their Phonekits/SIMpacks before October 29 are included in the October 29 raffle only.*

All Touch Mobile test SIMs are excluded from this raffle.

* *From 8:01AM to 10:00PM, Mon. to Sat.*

AYALA CORPORATION

Singapore Telecom International

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Get TOUCH Mobile from any Globe or Islacom Business Center or any cell phone dealer. For details call 730-1500. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3700. Series of 2001.

TOUCH MOBILE is the latest cellular offering of Isla Communications Co., Inc. (ISLACOM) in cooperation with Globe Telecom. Any similarity to other logos, marks and brandnames is purely coincidental.

Sana i-alay ninyo sa Pilipinas lahat ng natutunan ninyo!!
GUYITO

Junior Inquirer

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2001 ✦ 12 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 57

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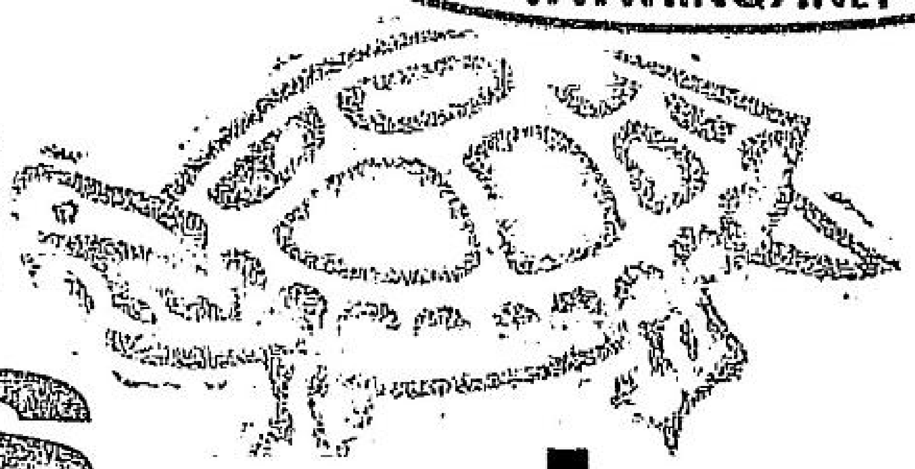
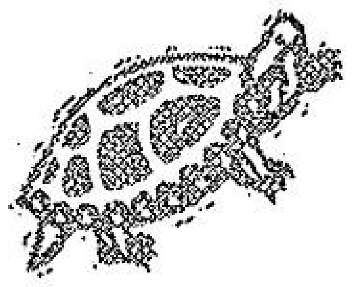
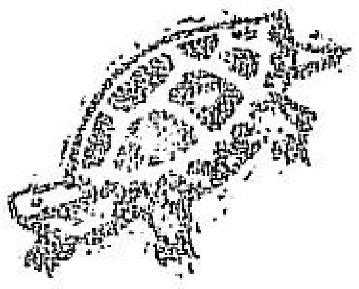
- Essay: Cheerleaders Page 5
- Your Poetry Page 6
- Atomo & Weboy Page 10
- Shirley's Pets Page 11

Traveling Turtles and Water All Around

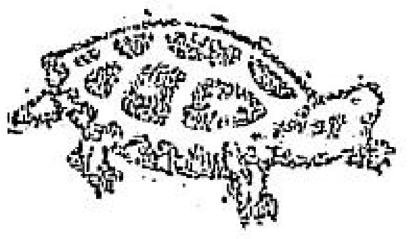






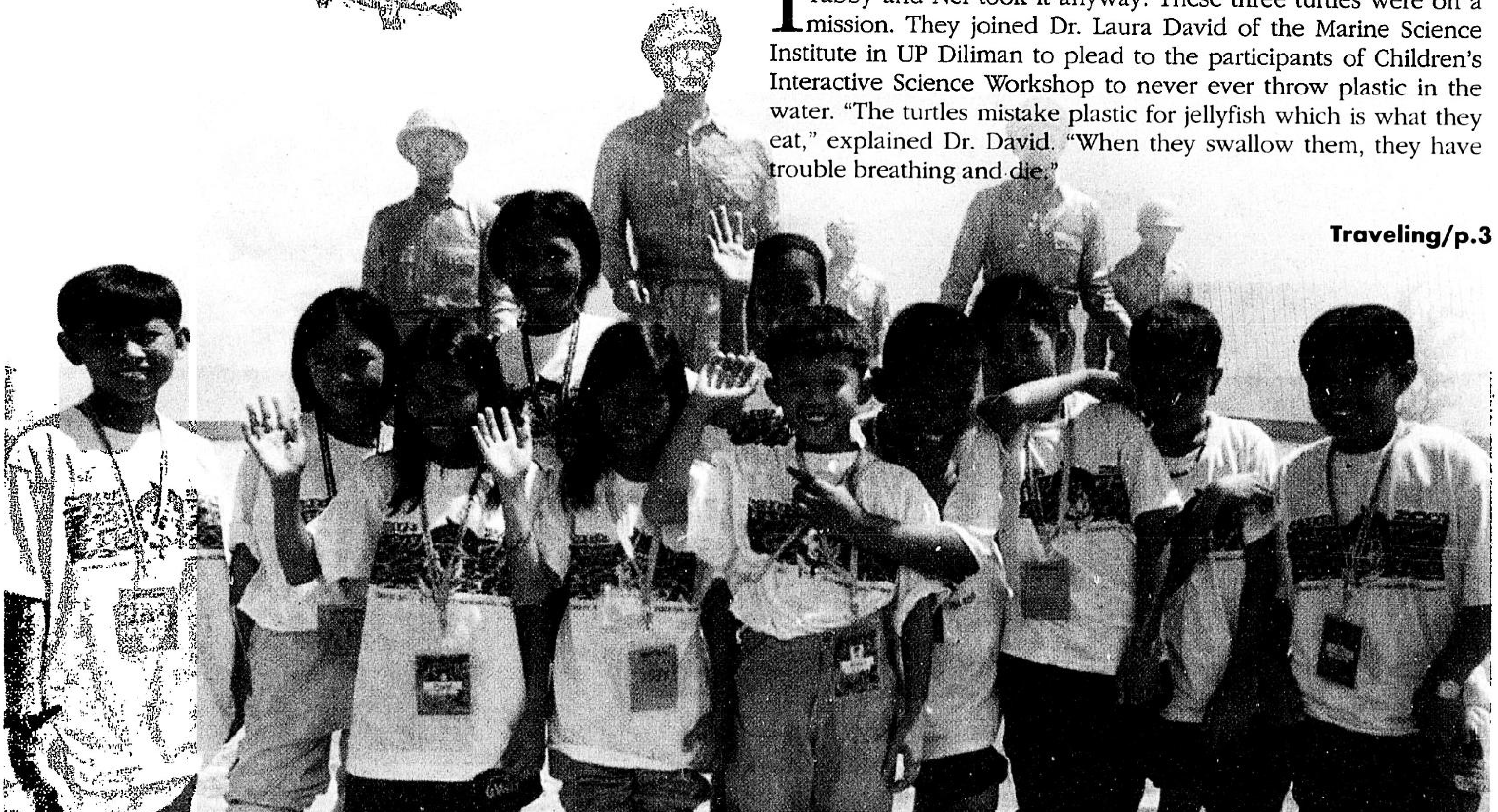
More than 500 science club kids get together in Leyte for fun, friendship and most of all, knowledge

BY **MAE ASTRID TOBIAS**



IT was a 24-hour bus ride from Manila to Tacloban but Ate, Tabby and Nei took it anyway. These three turtles were on a mission. They joined Dr. Laura David of the Marine Science Institute in UP Diliman to plead to the participants of Children's Interactive Science Workshop to never ever throw plastic in the water. "The turtles mistake plastic for jellyfish which is what they eat," explained Dr. David. "When they swallow them, they have trouble breathing and die."

Traveling/p.3



WE SHALL RETURN! Science campers take time off from their experiments to visit MacArthur Park in Palo, Leyte. They had so much fun, they might just do as the good general did: return! To their friends on the next science camp, that is!

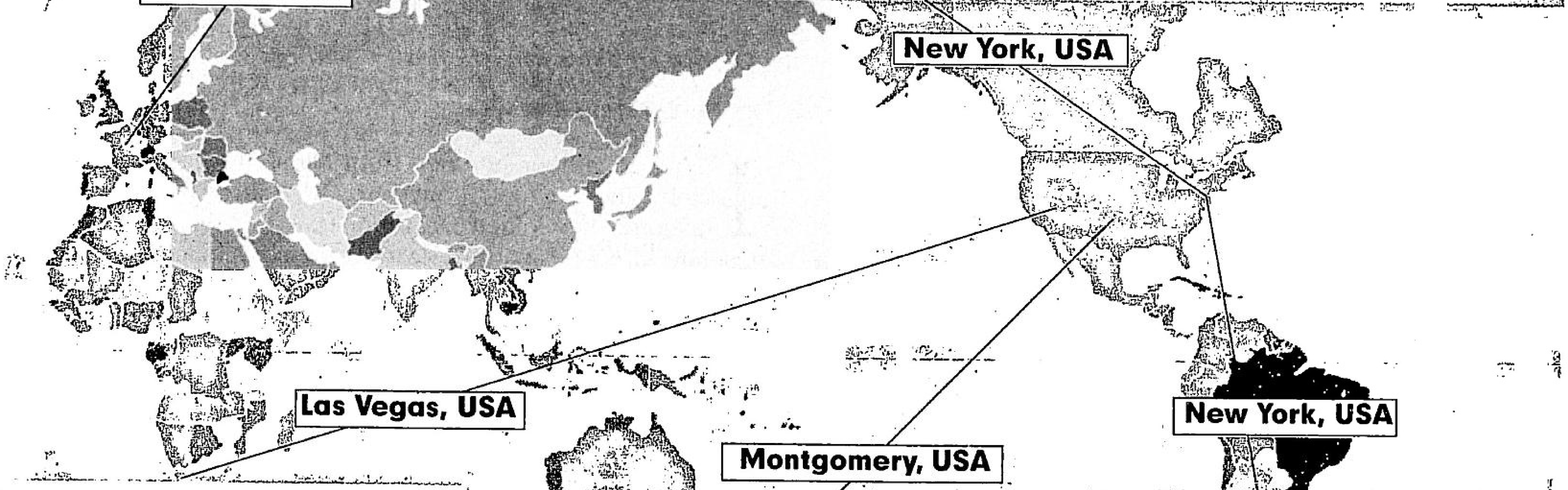
WORLD SCOPE

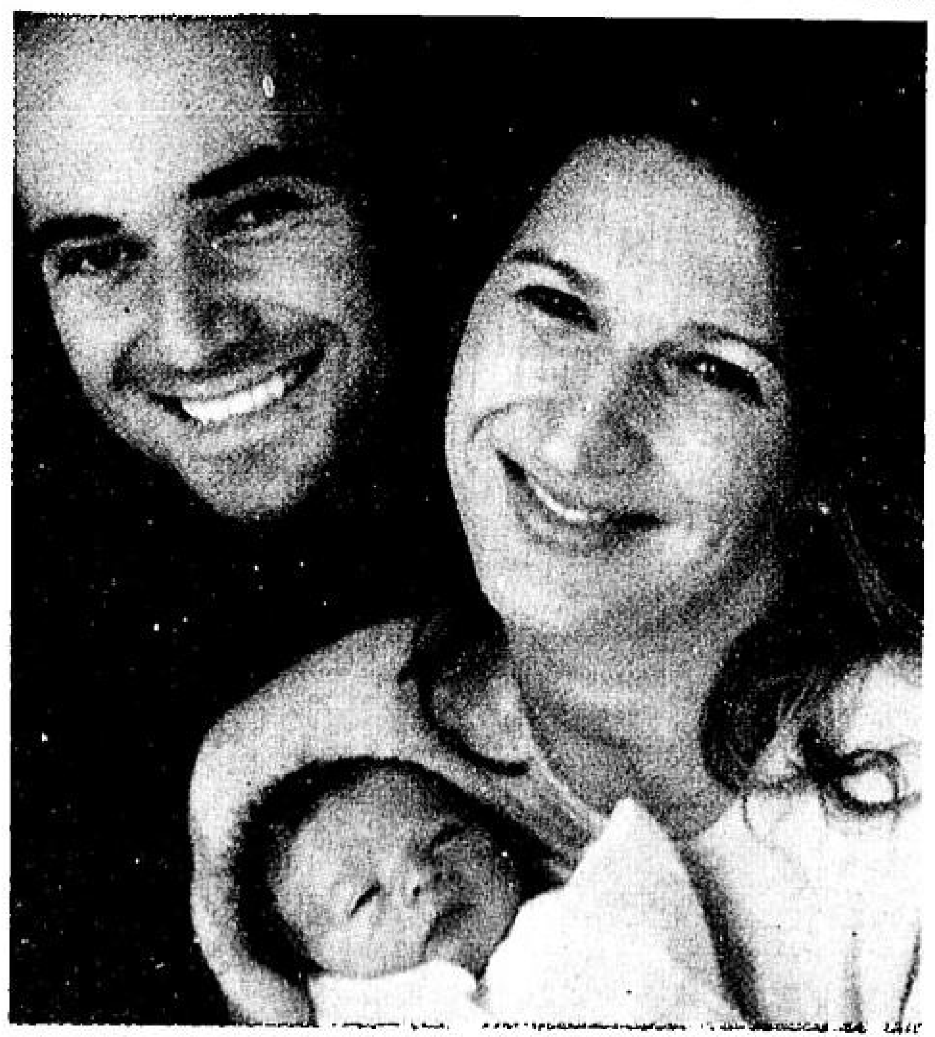
Whoopee!

FRENCH saber fencer Anne Lise Touya rejoices with her teammates after winning her women's saber final fight of the World Fencing Championships against Italian fencer Ilaria Bianco. *AP*

Pat the Dog

DANIELLE Burbick, 12, strokes the foot of Fidel, a papillon breed dog being held by his owner after a visit to the victims' family center. Fidel is among a group of dogs trained to deliver comfort and emotional therapy that are made available to the center for people affected by the World Trade Center disaster. Burbick's family had to leave their home because of the attacks. *AP*





Tennis Love

TENNIS greats Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf hold their new son, Jaden Gil. The baby was born Oct. 26 at a Las Vegas Hospital. The couple, who married in a private ceremony on Oct. 22, began dating after each won the French Open in 1999. *AP*

Historic Bus

THIS old Montgomery city bus is believed to be the vehicle in which Rosa Parks was on in 1955, when she refused to give up her seat, sparking the US civil rights movement. The Henry Ford Museum purchased the bus on the Internet for $492,000 from the family of a Montgomery man who originally bought it to use as a tool shed. *AP*

Reviving Broadway

US ACTRESS Bernadette Peters joins hundreds of other Broadway stars as they sing "New York, New York" for a public service announcement. While ticket-holder numbers have increased since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, they are still down by more than 10 percent from a year ago. *AP*

Traveling Turtles and Water All Around

(from page 1)

This was only one of the many valuable lessons participants of the CSIW learned during their five-day fun-filled stay in Leyte. More than 500 Grade 4-6 students and their science club advisers from all over the country attended the workshop on Oct. 23-27. This year, the theme "The Earth: 75% Water, 100% Life" was chosen by the camp's organizers, the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs. That's why the scheduled lectures, workshops, and even the field trip were all about water.

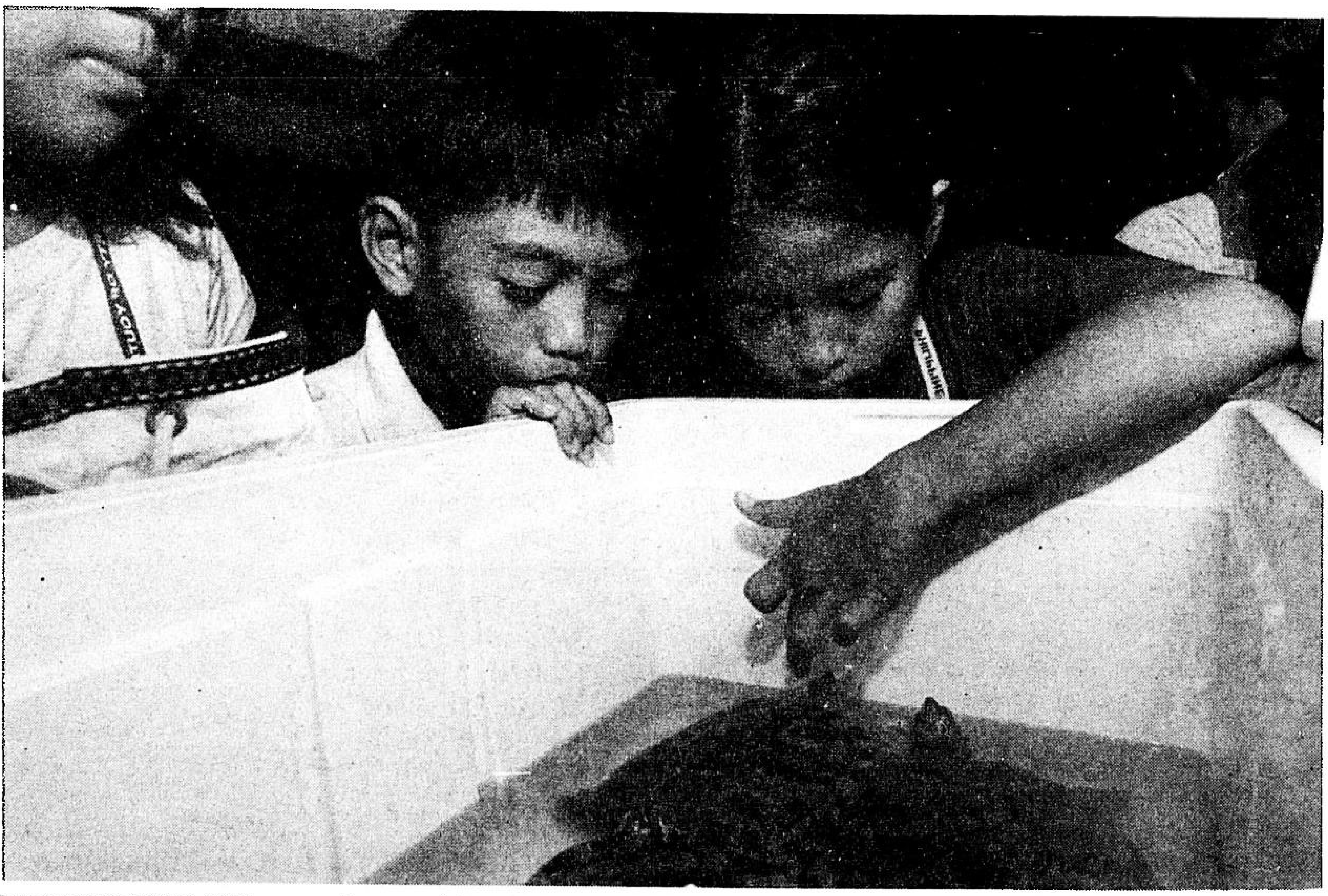
If you think lectures and workshops sound boring, you could be wrong. "It's like a vacation," said 10-year-old Von Peroy from SPED Baguio. "I consider it like going to a party where there are a lot of people and activities."

His favorite lecture was by Dr. David when she enumerated the different animals that lived in and around the sea. She showed them different kinds of anemones, shrimps and whales. Like we mentioned, even her pet turtles tagged along.

Twelve-year-old Aica Salanatin of Midsayap Pilot Elementary School said she enjoyed the lecture about groundwater and freshwater delivered by engineer Charly Aquino from UP Diliman.

Traveling/p.12

SMALL ECOSYSTEM. These science investigators are making a really small version of a coastline out of sand, water, borax, cornstarch and pictures of marine animals.



TURTLE POWER. Kids crowd around Ate, Tabby and Nei at the science camp.

OUT THERE

By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?

Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

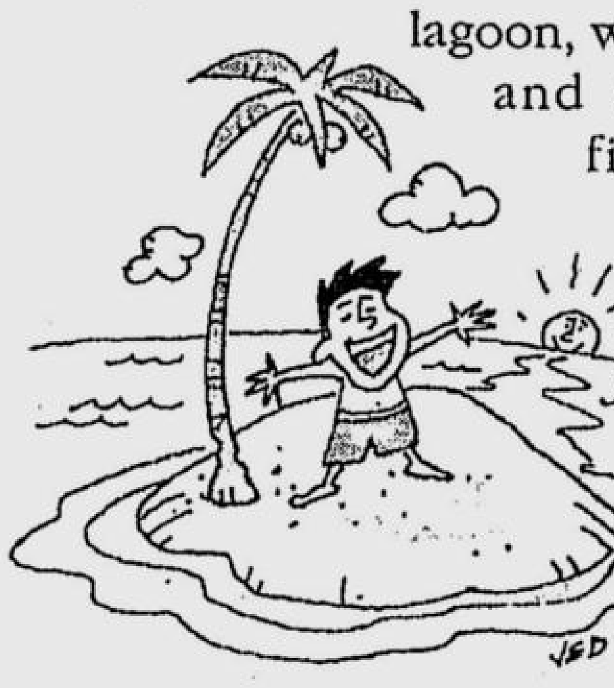
Contest

TEEN LIT CAMP. Adarna House and Filipinas Heritage Library invite teens ages 13-16 to submit their works in fiction, essay or poetry, and vie for a slot in the 2nd Annual Teen Lit Camp. It is a week-long out-of-town camp for teen writers. The Camp will feature talks by well-known writers, discussions, and other activities related to writing. For more info call up 372-3548 or 49 or send an email to adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph

Activities

EARLY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. Get some cool gifts this Christmas for your family and friends at the Let It Shine Foundation's Special Christmas Bazaar at the Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City on Nov. 18 at 9 a.m.-8:30pm. There's an entrance fee of P50. This is for the benefit of Shine Intervention Center, a school for special children. For details, contact Rhea Joaquin at 671-2096 or 0917-4395769.

ECO-TOUR IN CANADA. Get a chance to visit Canada to learn more about eco-tourism and the environment. If you are 14-18 years old, inquire now at the Tower Book House, 815-4938 or drop by their office at Windsor Tower, 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.



WATER EVERYWHERE. Experience exciting ways to learn more about water. Learn how to use water properly, conserve and the proper disposal of wastewater in "Gift of Nature: A Water Celebration." It's not just a sit-in lecture. Participants will be asked to fetch water from a lagoon, watch and feed big and colorful garden fishes, and walk under a mini-waterfalls. Inform your teachers and parents now. "Gift of Nature: A Water Celebration," is set on Nov. 11, 1 p.m. at the Orchidarium and Butterfly Pavilion, Rizal Park, Manila, and is sponsored by the Clean and Green Foundation and Center for Environmental Awareness and Education. For details call up, 527-6378 and 899-5660 or send email to c&gfi@epic.net and info@ceae.org.

FABLES AND PARABLES. Watch Trumpets' presentation of 'Fables and Parables' at the Cinema 1, 6th Level, Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Nov. 17-18 at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are priced at P150 and you can call up 633-5010, 633-4378 or 636-2842 or visit the Trumpets office at 6th Level, Parking Area beside Powerdance, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Edsa corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. Or send an email to trumpets@compass.com.ph

Stuff

COOL CHRISTMAS CARDS. Say Merry Christmas to friends and loved ones with Museo Pambata's Christmas Cards 2001 edition, now available in four designs by Ang Ink (Ilustrador ng Kabataan) artists Jo Ann Bereber, Abigail Goy, Jill Arwen Posadas and Pepper Roxas. Each card highlights the "musical spirit" of this much-awaited time of the year and comes with a detachable bookmarker to promote love for books and reading. Proceeds from card sales will go to Museo Pambata's Mobile Library program and literacy campaign which brings books and storytelling to under-served communities in Manila and neighboring cities. With a minimum order of 300 cards per design, Museo Pambata can print your company name/logo with message inside the cards at no extra cost. Blank cards are also available in packs of 10. For inquiries call Anna at 5231797 or 98 or email mpfi@museopambata.org.

Cable Picks

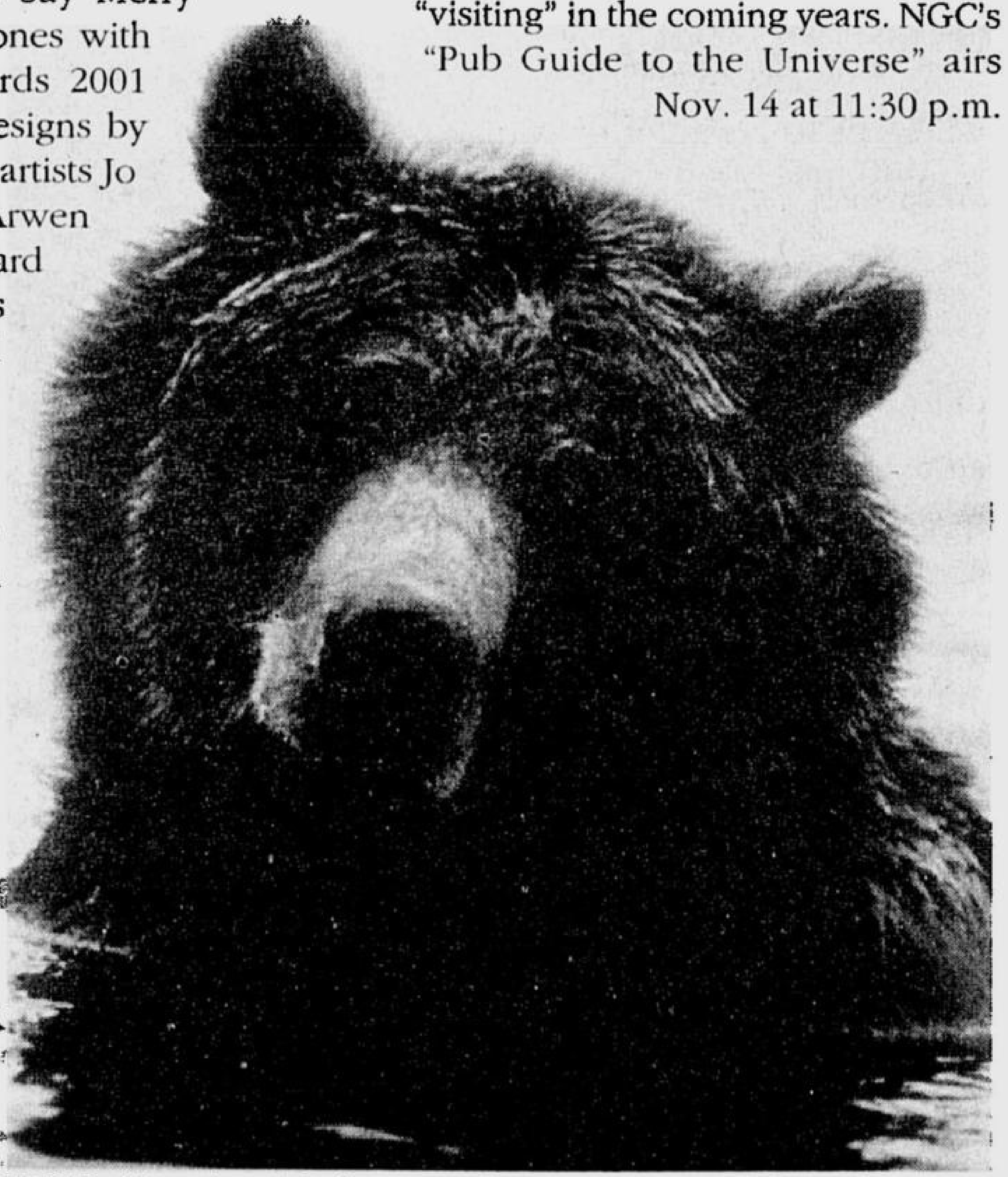
GREAT BOOKS ON DISCOVERY. This November Discovery Channel delves into the classics with "Great Books." With scholars, experts, writers, filmmakers, the series examines the qualities and continuing influence of timeless classics such as "Alice in Wonderland," "Moby Dick" and a lot more. "Great Books" airs today at 12 p.m.

WHAT'S ON AT ANIMAL PLANET. Enjoy and learn from Animal Planet's special shows.

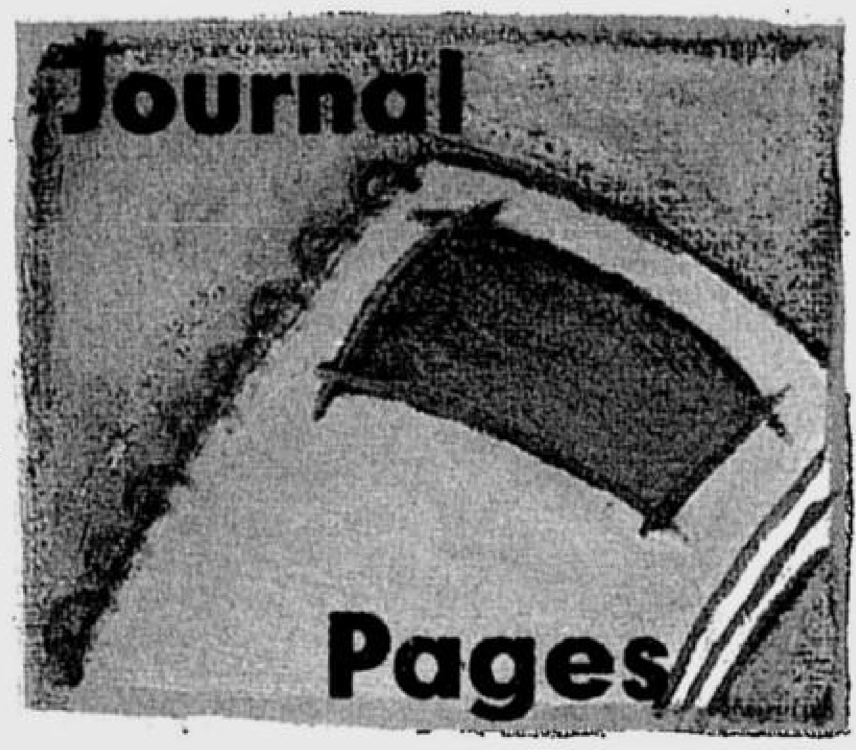
- **Profiles of Nature: Meet the Weasels.** Get up-close with the 67 species of weasels. Featuring the breeding, hunting, recreation and communication methods of badgers, minks, otters and wolverines "Profiles of Nature: Meet the Weasels" covers the field of these species' behavioral differences. Don't miss it on Nov. 12 at 8 p.m.
- **21st Century Ark.** Whales, elephants, gorillas and tigers—each of these animals are different one way or the other, yet they all have formed distinct relationships with humans. In each episode of "21st Century Ark" highlights one endangered species and examines its recent history, how it became threatened and what is being done to prevent their total extinction. Watch it every Saturday at 9 p.m.

. . .AND ON NGC. Explore exciting shows at the National Geographic Channel.

- **After Space, What's Next?** Where will space explorer's go next? Expert panelists at the Amazing Space pub discuss possibilities on where man would think of "visiting" in the coming years. NGC's "Pub Guide to the Universe" airs Nov. 14 at 11:30 p.m.



WATCH this adorable bear on Animal Planet's "21st Century Ark" Saturdays at 9 p.m.



Cheerleaders

BY MARIA FLEURDELIS R. TANYAG
MANILA SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

I GUESS every teenager experiences something he or she can be really proud of. I experienced something like this when I was chosen to join the Freshmen cheer dancing team.

We practiced so hard and everyday we gave our best. We were determined not only to win but also to prove ourselves to the higher year levels. We were united, though we had different attitudes and different views. We made a lot of preparations. Even our parents helped.

On the day of the competition, we all looked gorgeous in our white three-fourths and green pep looms. We were nervous and scared. But I can say that exuded confidence and charm.

Then came the signal for us to begin. The floor was ours. There were a lot of screaming and cheering from the audience. We danced and chanted. There were errors but we went on. Finally, we did our last stunt and shouted our last cheer. We bowed to the audience and moved to exit.

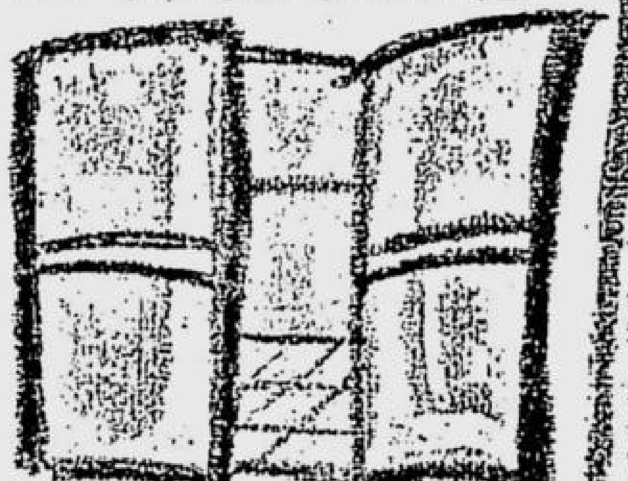
Later on, we were nervous again when the winners were being announced. With trembling hands and shaking knees we heard the emcee announce the 3rd place. It was us! Tears rolled down our cheeks. We all hugged each other. We won!

We were able to prove our worth and ourselves! Even though we were not the champion, it did not matter as long as we were on the list. This is already a good start. Well there's still three more years to compete again. Hooray for us cheer leaders!

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

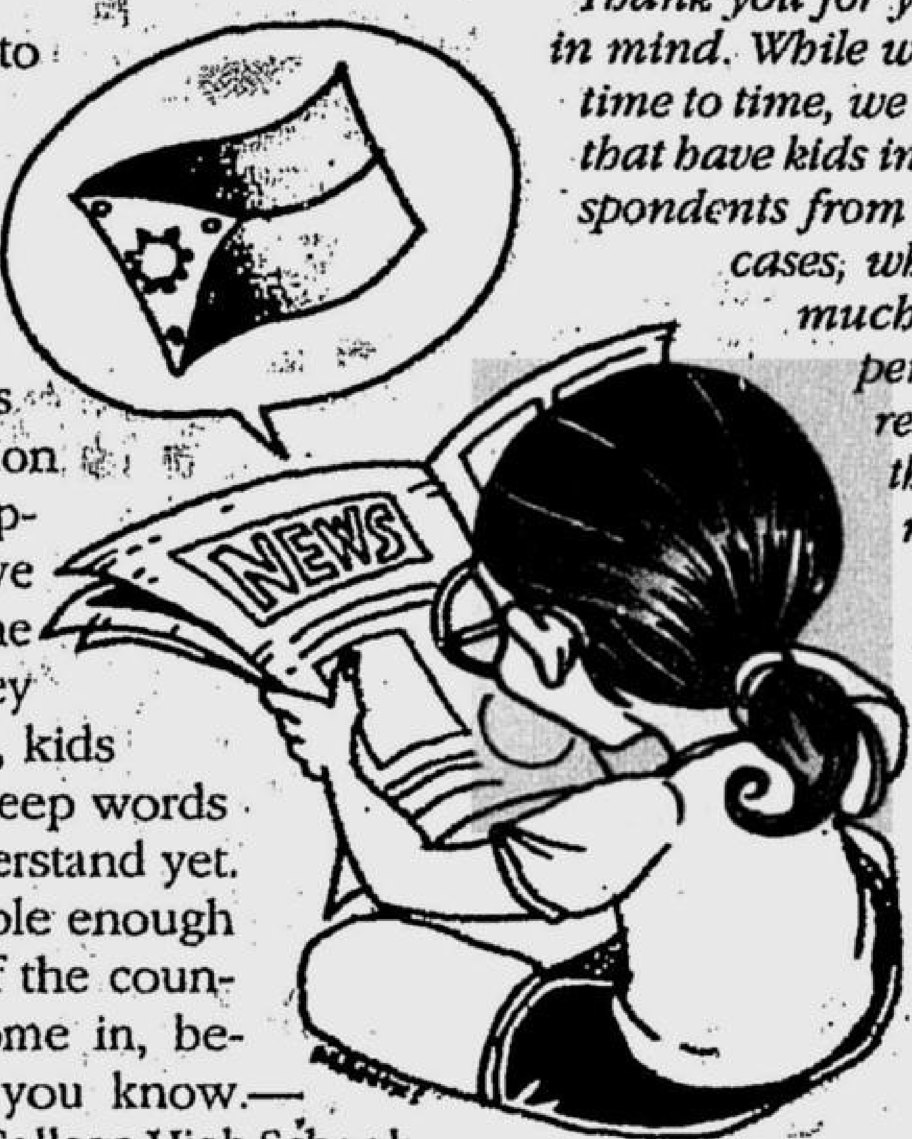
You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **ji@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



More Local News

DEAR Editor,

So many things are happening to our country today and kids could not help but wonder, "What is really going on?" That's why I'm suggesting that you put articles about important and significant current events in JI. Yes, JI has World News, and I enjoy that section very much. But what about Philippine news? You may say that we could just read all about them in the headlines, but giving kids what they want is what JI is for, isn't it? Well, kids don't want to read articles full of deep words and other things that we can't understand yet. We want simple explanations, simple enough so we could relate with the rest of the country. I hope that's where you'll come in, because we kids are also citizens, you know.— **ANA FE MONICA AGUILA**, Miriam College High School



MANUELABRERA

DEAR Ana Fe,

Thank you for your suggestions! We'll keep it in mind. While we do publish local news from time to time, we want to concentrate on news that have kids in it. That's why we have correspondents from different campuses. In most cases, what happens at school is very much connected to what is happening to the nation. We don't really want to repeat the news that kids already hear on the radio or watch on television.

We also have Journal Pages which is a peek into what kids think about their family, community and country. And yes, we celebrate the fact that kids are citizens of this nation. That is why JI is here: to help make their voice heard.

—The Editor

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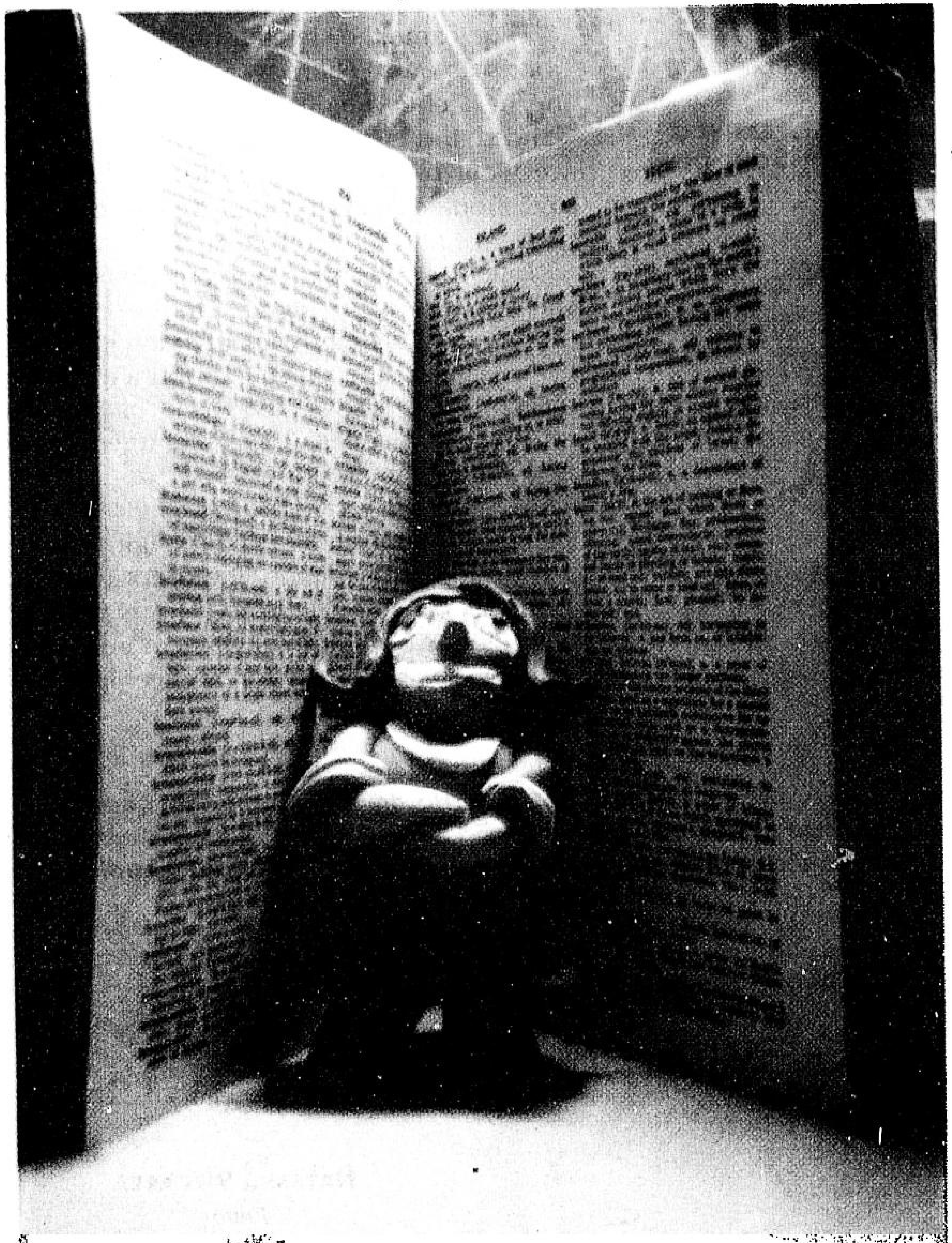


Books

By Thea Laurence M. Calayag

Books are fun to read
These might even help with what you need
For me these are nice and handy
And these can be for your whole family
Books really please me
Some even have a glossary
They help us increase our vocabulary
That is why we have the dictionary
Books are needed for school
They are indeed very cool
Books can be for school, work or fun
It will make a good present for your son

***Thea** is 11 years old and lives in Parañaque.*

What sha

By Stephanie An

When I grow up, I want to be a sailor
And roar over the seas and oceans.
When I grow up, I want to be a pilot
And fly an airplane on wonderful trip.

When I grow up, I want to be a doctor
And heal the sick people.

Thinking

BY EMMANUEL CRUZ

Silent inside
My head behind .
My ears
A thought begins
To grow and become
A part of me
Then I think I always
Knew the thing I only
Got to know as though
Inside my head
Behind my eyes
Where I keep
Things.

***Noel**, 8, studies at the Community of Learners. He loves animals.*

ll I be?

N GAN

When I grow up, I want to be a teacher
And teach the young children
how to write, read, and study
When I grow up, I want to be a stewardess
And serve the passengers
When I grow up, what shall I be?

***Stephanie**, 10, lives in Quezon City.*

ART BY
JOSE MIGUEL TEJIDO

Try It!

BY ANNA GRAZIELLA J. BARRENO

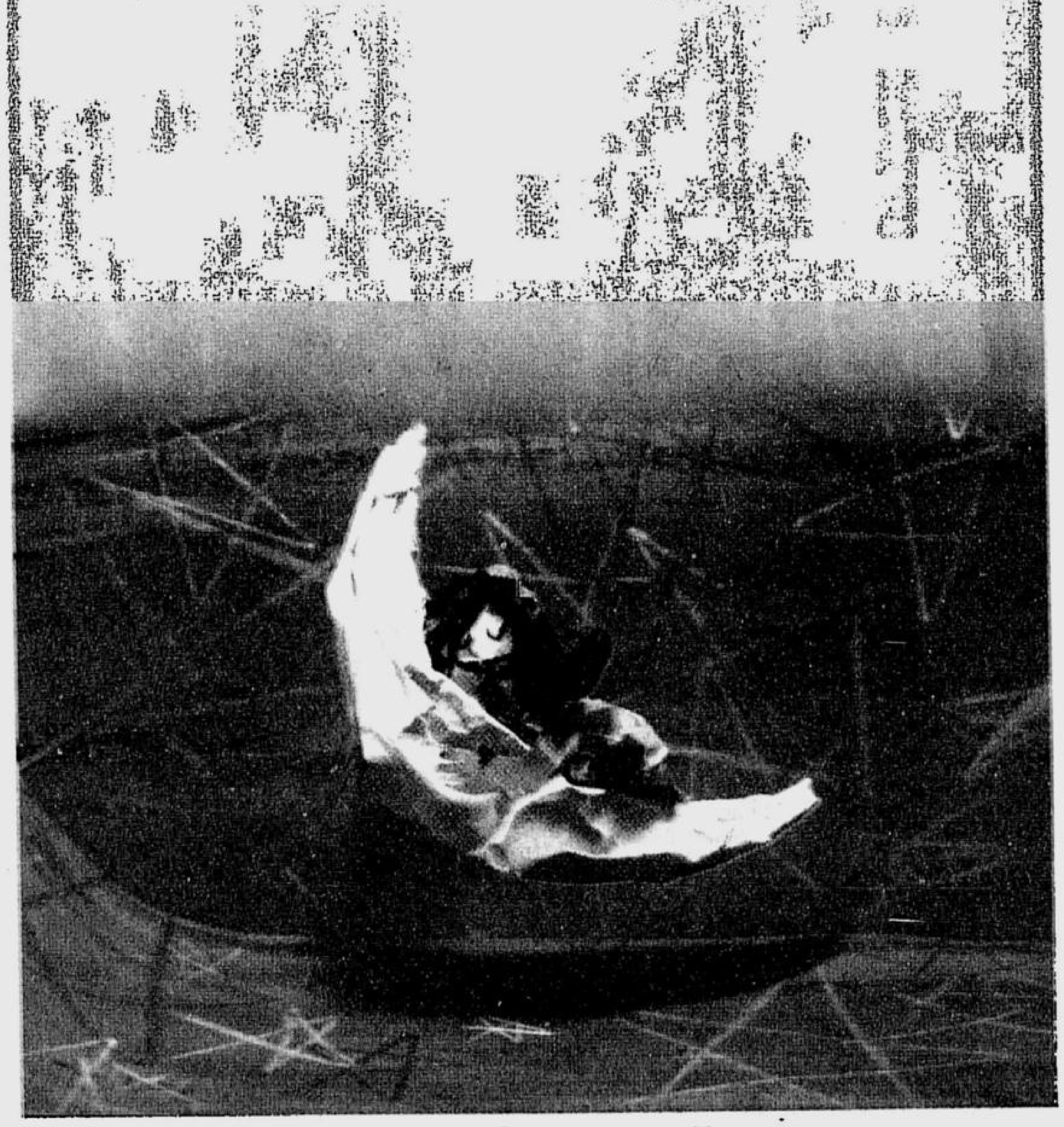
Always give it a try,
Don't give up and cry,
You must persevere and try
God will help you as you go by.

Cheer up and stand,
Do not ask for someone's hand.
Do it on your own,
Try it and stretch your bones.

Now you see,
You are happy as you can be.
Because you gave it a try,
Now your dreams—with you—will fly

***Anna** studies at Saint Claire School.*

***Jomike**, 19, is taking up Architecture at the University of Sto. Tomas in Manila. He also illustrates books for children. Check out his 3-D in Adarna Books' "Abot Mo Ba Ang Tainga Mo?" and Unicef's "Si Juanito sa Panahon ng Amerikano."*



Joey's Secret Weapon

This violinist is also a writer

BY MARGAUX ORTIZ

WHENEVER 14-year-old Maria Josefa Nantes encounters the dreaded writer's block and feels frustrated, she would pick up her violin and play. "The music would clear my head and ideas would suddenly pop up from nowhere," she says.

Joey adds that the emotions she feels while playing her violin are a rich source of possible storylines.

"The sad and sweet notes coming from my violin inspire me to write sad or romantic stories," she relates. "Ever since I started to play the violin when I was 7 years old, I noticed that it has really helped improve my writing."

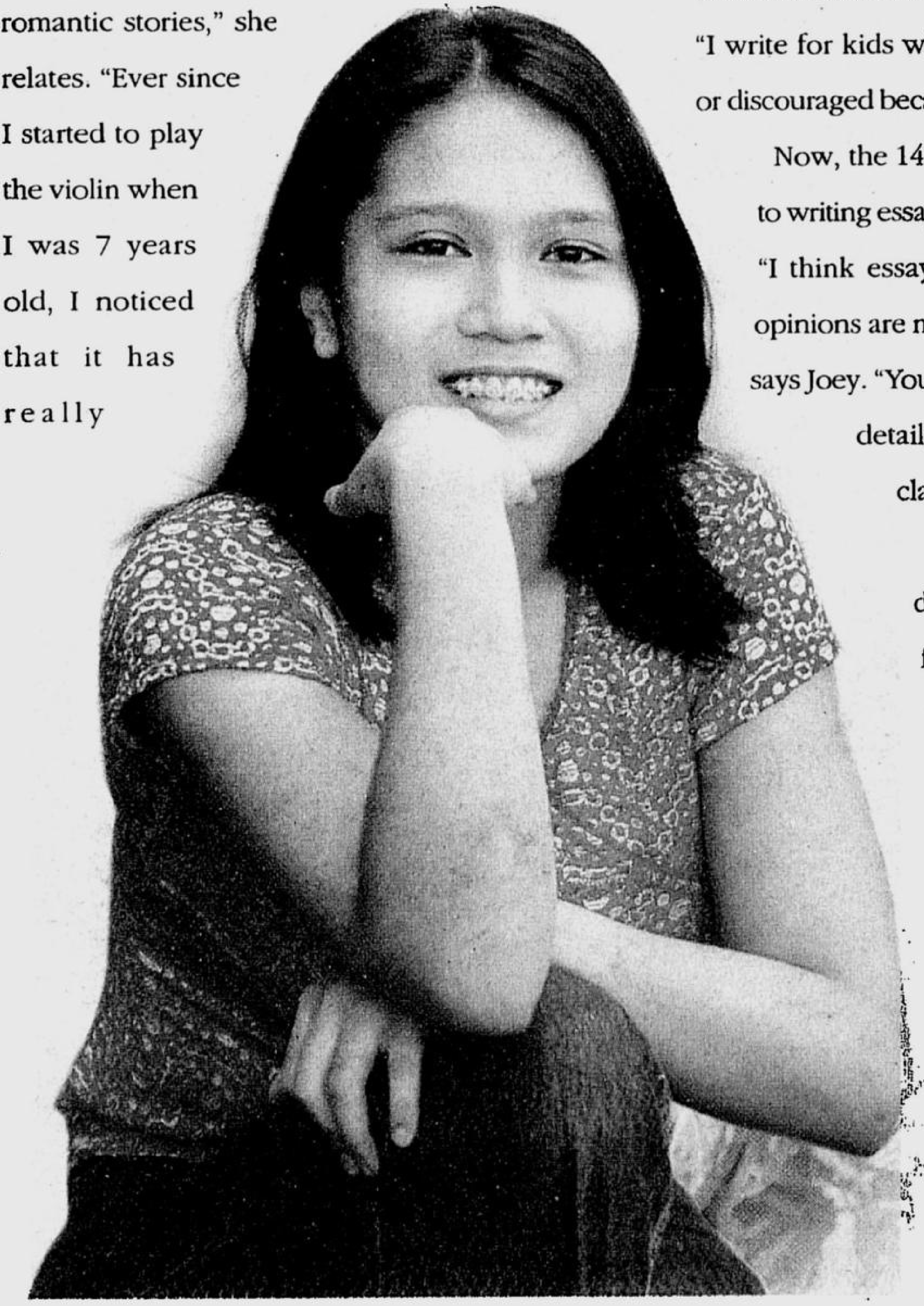
Joey found out as early as kindergarten that she loved writing. "Our teacher would ask us to describe an object by either drawing it or writing about that object," says Joey. Instead of sketching a picture of a cup of coffee, Joey would write a poem about it.

The junior from the UP Integrated School also enjoys writing short stories for her little cousins. Joey's characters are children who are extraordinary in their own unique ways. "Like a girl who isn't afraid to act out a male role or a boy who loves pink," she smiles. "I write for kids who feel that they are out of place or discouraged because they are branded as *different*."

Now, the 14-year-old has turned her attention to writing essays in addition to poems and stories. "I think essays are a challenge because mere opinions are not enough to write effective ones," says Joey. "You have to think about the necessary details and evidences to support your claim."

And live up to the challenge, she did. Joey recently became a finalist for the Ramon Magsaysay essay-writing competition wherein she won two personal computers for herself and her school!

With her pen and violin in hand, there's no doubt that Joey's promising writing career has just begun.



"I WRITE for kids who feel out of place because they feel they are different."

JOANBONDOC

R U RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate:

Age:

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at

and studies at

Her/his contact number is:

Sender's Name:

Sender's Age & School:

Sender's Address:

Sender's Contact No.

Super Mom

Tita Ginny Jugo shares her love with orphanage babies

By Margaux Ortiz

SHE'S one of the best mommies ever. *Tita* Ginny Jugo already has five grown-up kids of her own, and yet she wants to giver her love to lots of children who did not know the love of a caring parent.

Tita Ginny's love story with orphanage babies began in 1994, when she first visited the C.R.I.B.S. (Create Responsive Infants by Sharing) headquarters.

"The minute I saw the babies, I wanted to take all of them home," said *Tita* Ginny, now in her 50s. "They looked so tiny and helpless, needing all the love and care they could get."

Most of the children she saw had been given up by their parents because they didn't have enough money to take care of them. A lot of them were found abandoned in hospitals or churches.

Tita Ginny then decided to become a foster parent to prepare these kids for their permanent adoptive homes.

"There's a difference between adoption and fostering," she emphasizes. "While children in foster homes stay with their temporary parents for a like a year, it is just as important as adoption, which is on the other hand a permanent commitment."

Foster parents like *Tita* Ginny nurture and help these babies grow up to be well-adjusted kids by showering them with attention and care.

"We also give them proper nutrition and expose them to different kinds of people so they would become sociable," says *Tita* Ginny.

Tita Ginny has provided temporary but loving homes to six children in the last seven years.

"I've seen 'my babies' become happy and lively kids," she smiles. "I remember the first time I took them home from the orphanage. Their skin was dry and their eyes were listless." After a few days of *Tita* Ginny's care, these kids had an unmistakable glow of contentment in them.

So, what happens when it's time for *Tita* Ginny to give these children up to their real adoptive parents?

"From the start I already focus on the idea that these kids will eventually go to their permanent homes," she says.

Tita Ginny feels satisfied whenever she sees pictures of her former foster children, now happy with their new families.

"I'm only glad I've done my part for these kids," she smiles.

ROGER CARPIO

LAZY AFTERNOON. Tita Ginny snuggles with Carla—a child she intends to adopt permanently—at their Quezon City home.

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

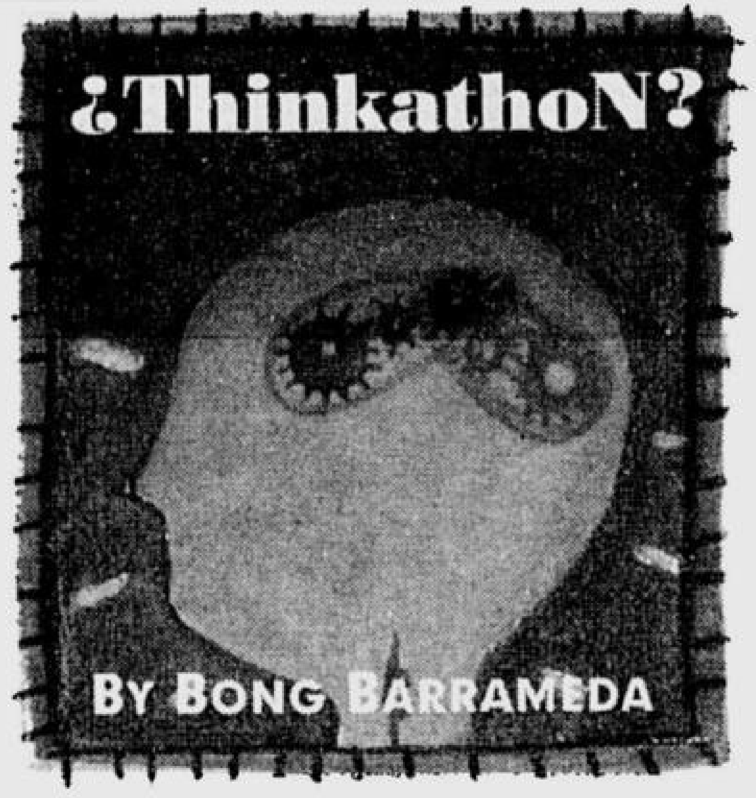
A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is
my ____________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
and
5)____________________.

My nominee lives at __________
____________________.
Give him/her a call at __________
____________ or send him/her an e-mail
at ______________.
By the way, I'm ____________
____________________.
I'm _____ years old.
My address is
____________________.
You may call me at
____________________.


¿ThinkathoN?
By Bong Barrameda

Cause and Apec

LAST month, 21 world leaders gathered in Shanghai, China, for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit. Fifteen of them are listed here. Do you know the country they each represented?

1. President Ziang Jemin
   - ● China
   - ●Taiwan
2. President Megawati Sukarnoputri
   - ● Malaysia
   - ● Indonesia
3. President Kim Dae-jung
   - ● South Korea
   - ● North Korea
4. President Vladimir Putin
   - ● Ukraine
   - ● Russia
5. Prime Minister Jean Chretien
   - ● Canada
   - ● France
6. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi
   - ● Japan
   - ● Peru
7. President Vicente Fox
   - ● Panama
   - ● Mexico
8. Prime Minister John Howard
   - ● Australia
   - ● Britain
9. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah
   - ● Brunei
   - ● Tonga
10. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra
    - ● Myanmar
    - ● Thailand
11. Prime Minister Helen Clark
    - ● New Zealand
    - ● Fiji
12. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai
    - ● Cambodia
    - ● Vietnam
13. Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong
    - ● Hong Kong
    - ● Singapore
14. President Ricardo Lagos Escobar
    - ● Chile
    - ● Argentina
15. Prime Minister Mekere Morauta
    - ● Palau
    - ● Papua New Guinea

Answers :

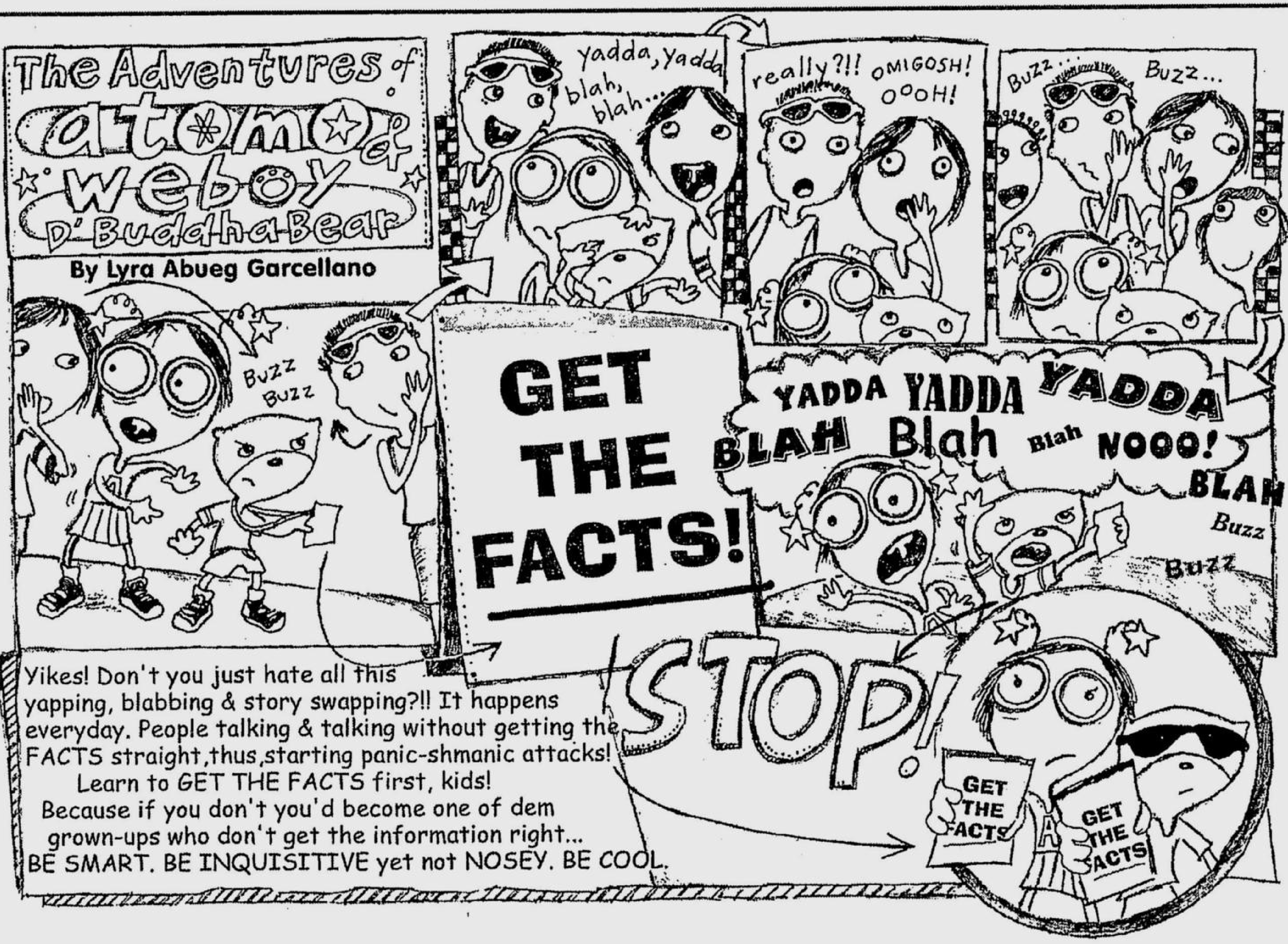
1. China
2. Indonesia
3. South Korea
4. Russia
5. Canada
6. Japan
7. Mexico
8. Australia
9. Brunei
10. Thailand
11. New Zealand
12. Thailand
13. Singapore
14. Chile
15. Papua New Guinea

Ratings :

superbrain!
14 – 15

excellent!
11 – 13

good!
8 – 10


The Adventures of atom & weboy D' BuddhaBear
yadda, yadda blah, blah...
really?!!
OMIGOSH! OOOH!
Buzz...
Buzz...
Buzz Buzz
GET THE FACTS!
YADDA YADDA YADDA BLAH Blah Blah NOOO! BLAH
Buzz
Buzz
STOP!
GET THE FACTS
GET THE FACTS

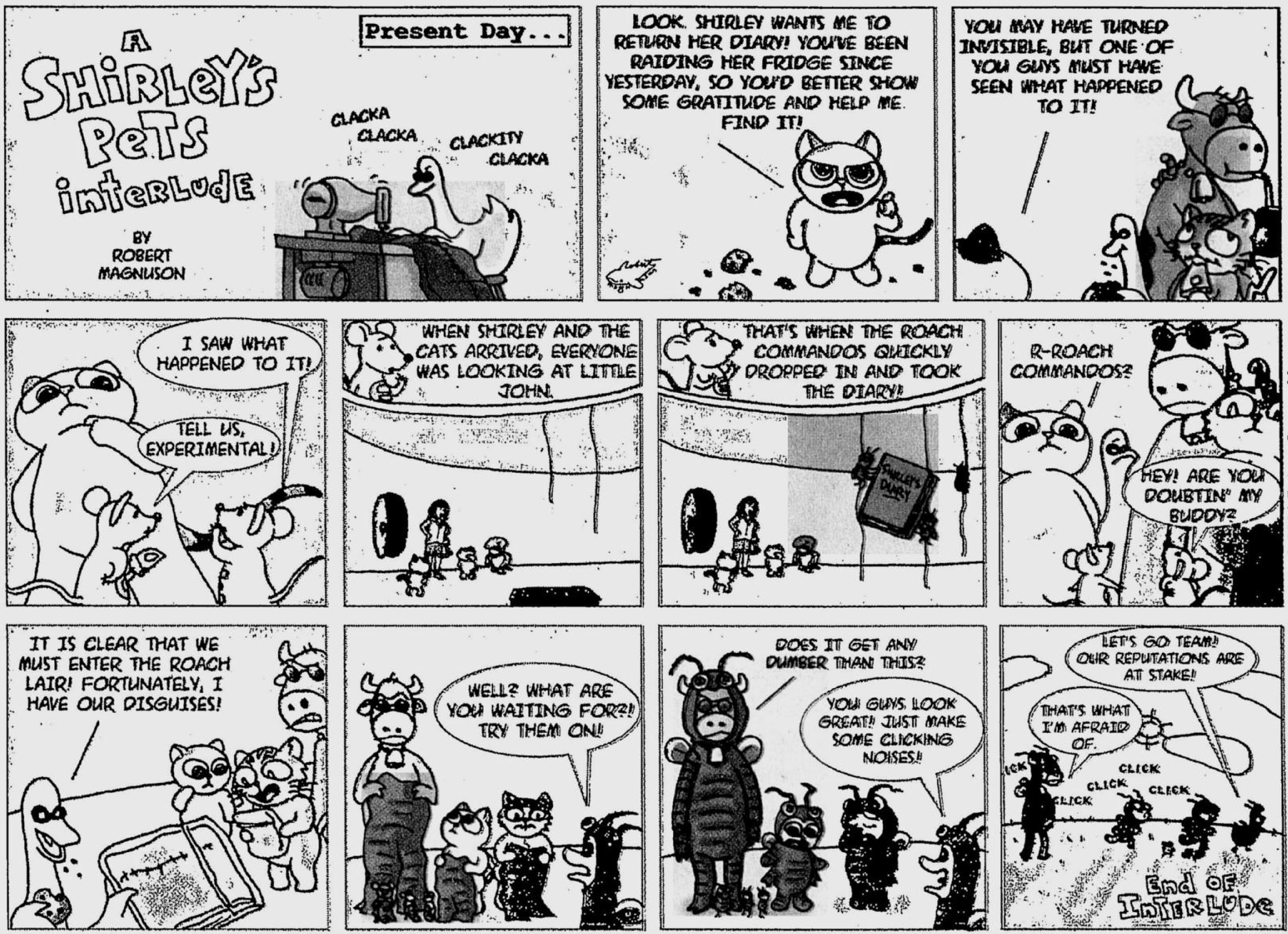
By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

Yikes! Don't you just hate all this yapping, blabbing & story swapping?!! It happens everyday. People talking & talking without getting the FACTS straight, thus, starting panic-shmanic attacks!

Learn to GET THE FACTS first, kids!

Because if you don't you'd become one of dem grown-ups who don't get the information right...

BE SMART. BE INQUISITIVE yet not NOSEY. BE COOL.


A SHIRLEY'S PETS INTERLUDE
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
Present Day...
CLACKA CLACKA
CLACKITY CLACKA
LOOK. SHIRLEY WANTS ME TO RETURN HER DIARY! YOU'VE BEEN RAIDING HER FRIDGE SINCE YESTERDAY, SO YOU'D BETTER SHOW SOME GRATITUDE AND HELP ME FIND IT!
YOU MAY HAVE TURNED INVISIBLE, BUT ONE OF YOU GUYS MUST HAVE SEEN WHAT HAPPENED TO IT!
I SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO IT!
TELL US, EXPERIMENTAL!
WHEN SHIRLEY AND THE CATS ARRIVED, EVERYONE WAS LOOKING AT LITTLE JOHN.
THAT'S WHEN THE ROACH COMMANDOS QUICKLY DROPPED IN AND TOOK THE DIARY!
SHIRLEY'S DIARY
R-ROACH COMMANDOS?
HEY! ARE YOU DOUBTIN' MY BUDDY?
IT IS CLEAR THAT WE MUST ENTER THE ROACH LAIR! FORTUNATELY, I HAVE OUR DISGUISES!
WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! TRY THEM ON!
DOES IT GET ANY DUMBER THAN THIS?
YOU GUYS LOOK GREAT! JUST MAKE SOME CLICKING NOISES!
LET'S GO TEAM! OUR REPUTATIONS ARE AT STAKE!
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF.
ICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
End OF InTERLUDE

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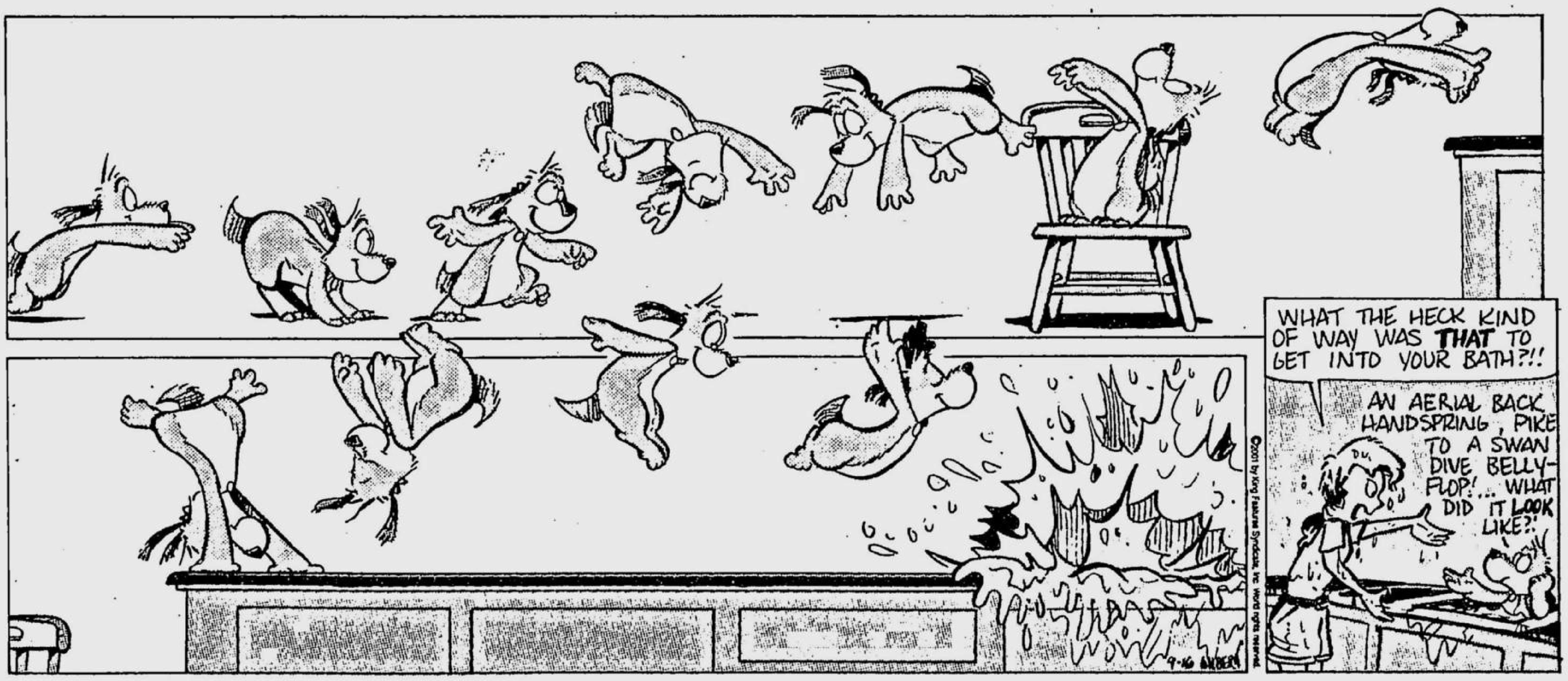
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


WHAT THE HECK KIND OF WAY WAS THAT TO GET INTO YOUR BATH?!!
AN AERIAL BACK HANDSPRING, PIKE TO A SWAN DIVE BELLY-FLOP!... WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?!
9-16 GILBERT
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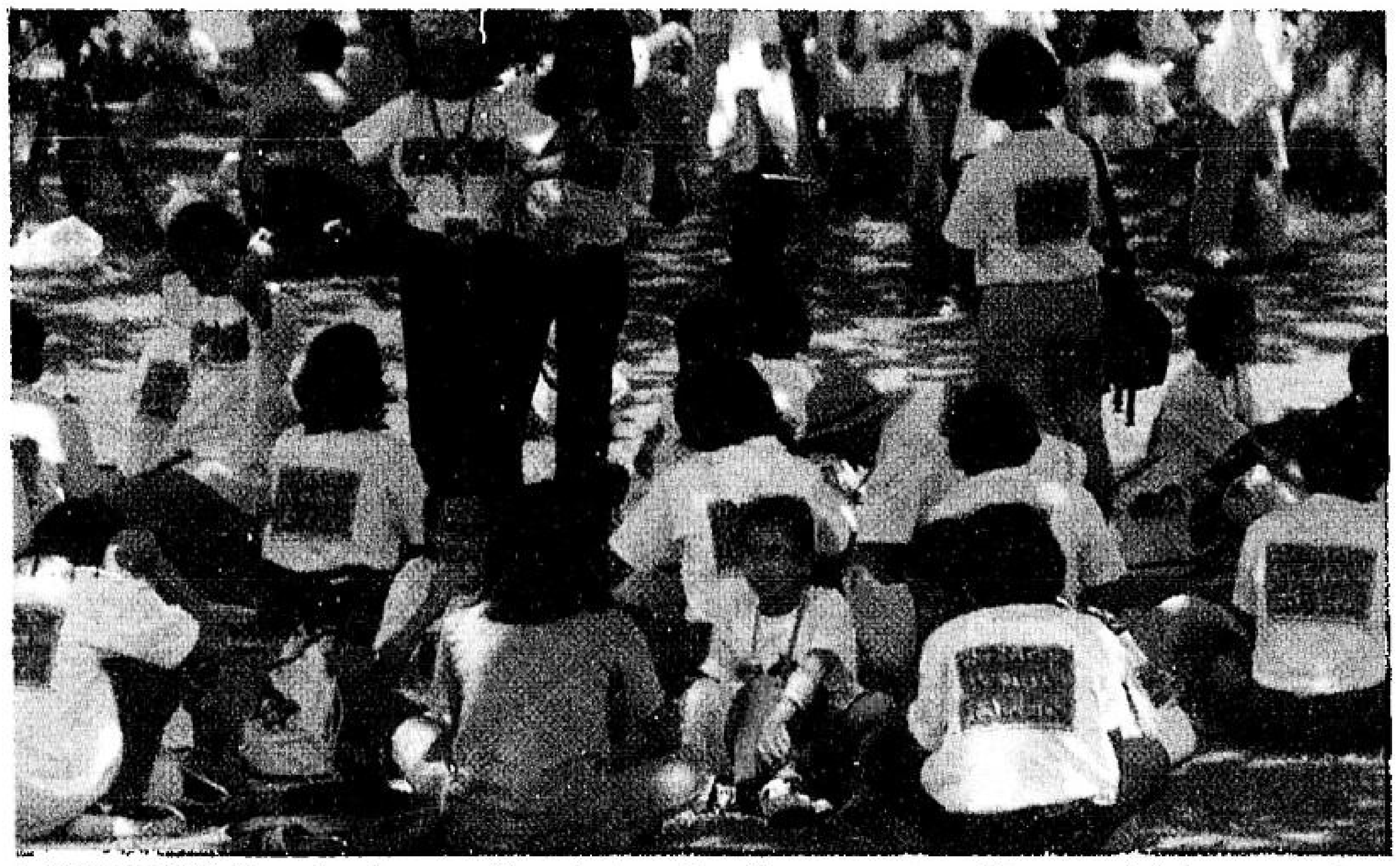
Traveling Turtles and Water All Around

(from page 3)

LOVE
YOURSELF
WATER

SLOGAN HUDDLE. Science campers work on a poster about the importance of water on planet Earth.



LAZY DAY. Cool, clean air+ lots of soft grass to sit on + kids on a day off = a lazy day at McArthur Park.

"I learned where we get our water," said Aica. "Before I thought that the groundwater resources was only few but they turned out to be a lot."

"I made friends with a co-participant whom I feel closer to than all of my other classmates here," said 12-year-old Peachy Malabriga of LIDE Learning Center, Leyte. "Next year, I'm definitely coming back," said Butch Peroy of Notre Dame of Mlang, Cotabato. "I am expecting it (CSIW 2002) to be better and I will make more friends there."

During the workshops, the science campers got the chance to find out how hard it is clean dirty water through filtration. They also made a huge mess creating their very own coastline using homemade silly putty and magic mud. Of course, the workshop was not complete without everybody's favorite activity—the field trip. The CSIWs visited the San Juanico Bridge, the longest suspension bridge in the Philippines and the McArthur Park, the historical place where Gen. Douglas McArthur landed when he returned during World War II. They also visited the Sto. Niño Shrine where Marcos memorabilia were housed.

On the last day of the workshop, some participants told us what they liked most about their stay in Leyte. Some said it was the place, while others said it was the activities. There were also some who said it was the friends they have made.

Aica, who has attended the past three CSIW, said this year was the happiest she has been to.

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